POEMS

AND

TRANSLATIONS.

238 a 60

POEMS

AND

TRANSLATIONS;

WITH THE

SOPHY,

A

TRAGEDY.

WRITTEN BY THE HONOURABLE

SIR JOHN DENHAM,

KNIGHT OF THE BATH.

GLASGOW:

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M.DCC.LXXI.

TO THE

KING.

SIR,

AFTER the delivery of your royal father's perſon into the hands of the army, I undertaking to the queen-mother that I would find ſome means to get acceſs to him, ſhe was pleaſed to ſend me; and by the help of Hugh Peters I got my admittance, and coming well inſtructed from the queen (his majeſty having been long kept in the dark) he was pleaſed to diſcourſe very freely with me of the whole ſtate of his affairs: but, Sir, I will not launch into a hiſtory, inſtead of an epiſtle. One morning waiting on him at Cauſham, ſmiling upon me, he ſaid he could tell me ſome news of myſelf, which was, that he had ſeen ſome verſes of mine the evening before (being thoſe to Sir R. Fanſhaw) and aſking me when I made them, I told him two or three years ſince; he was pleaſed to ſay, that having never ſeen them before, he was afraid I had written them ſince my return into England, and though he liked them well, he would adviſe me to write no more; alledging, that when men are young, and have little elſe to do, they might vent the overflowings of their fancy that way; but when they were thought fit for more ſerious employments, if they ſtill perſiſted in that courſe, it would look as if they minded not the way to any better.

Whereupon I ſtood corrected as long as I had the honour to wait upon him, and at his departure from Hampton-Court, he was pleaſed to command me to ſtay privately at London, to ſend to him and receive from him all his letters from and to all his correſpondents at home and abroad, and I was furniſh'd with nine ſeveral cyphers in order to it: which truſt I performed with great ſafety to the perſons with whom we correſponded; but about nine months after being diſcovered by their knowledge of Mr. Cowley's hand, I happily eſcaped both for myſelf, and thoſe that held correſpondence with me. That time was too hot and buſy for ſuch idle ſpeculations, but after I had the good fortune to wait upon your majeſty in Holland and France, you were pleaſed ſometimes to give me arguments to divert and put off the evil hours of our baniſhment, which now and then fell not ſhort of your majeſty's expectation.

After, when your majeſty, departing from St. Germains to Jerſey, was pleaſed freely (without my aſking) to confer upon me that place wherein I have now the honour to ſerve you, I then gave over poetical lines, and made it my buſineſs to draw ſuch others as might be more ſerviceable to your majeſty, and I hope more laſting. Since that time I never diſobeyed my old maſter's commands till this ſummer at the wells, my retirement there tempting me to divert thoſe melancholy thoughts, which the new apparitions of foreign invaſion, and domeſtic diſcontent gave us: but theſe clouds being now happily blown over, and our ſun clearly ſhining out again, I have recovered the relapſe, it being

ſuſpected that it would have proved the epidemical diſeaſe of age, which is apt to fall back into the follies of youth; yet Socrates, Ariſtotle, and Cato did the ſame; and Scaliger ſaith, that fragment of Ariſtotle was beyond any thing that Pindar or Homer ever wrote. I will not call this a dedication, for thoſe epiſtles are commonly greater abſurdities than any that come after; for what author can reaſonably believe, that fixing the great name of ſome eminent patron in the forehead of his book can charm any cenſure, and that the firſt leaf ſhould be a curtain to draw over and hide all the deformities that ſtand behind it? neither have I any need of ſuch ſhifts, for moſt of the parts of this body have already had your majeſty's view, and having paſt the taſte of ſo clear and ſharp-ſighted a judgment, which has as good a title to give law in matters of this nature as in any other, they who ſhall preſume to diſſent from your majeſty, will do more wrong to their own judgment, than their judgment can do to me: and for thoſe latter parts which have not yet received your majeſty's favourable aſpect, if they who have ſeen them do not flatter me, (for I dare not truſt my own judgment) they will make it appear, that it is not with me as with moſt of mankind, who never forſake their darling vices, till their vices forſake them; and that this divorce was not *frigiditatis cauſa*, but an act of choice, and not of neceſſity. Therefore, Sir, I ſhall only call it an humble petition, that your majeſty will pleaſe to pardon this new amour to my old miſtreſs, and my diſobedience to his commands, to whoſe memory I look up with great re-

verence and devotion, and making a ſerious reflection upon that wiſe advice, it carries much greater weight with it now, than when it was given; for when age and experience has ſo ripen'd man's diſcretion as to make it fit for uſe, either in private or public affairs, nothing blaſts and corrupts the fruit of it ſo much as the empty, airy reputation of being *nimis poeta;* and therefore I ſhall take my leave of the muſes, as two of my predeceſſors did, ſaying,

'Splendidis longum vale dico nugis.
'Hic verſus et caetera ludicra pono.

Your MAJESTY's moſt faithful

and loyal ſubject, and moſt

dutiful and devoted ſervant,

JO. DENHAM.

POEMS

UPON

SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

COOPER'S HILL.

SURE there are poets which did never dream
Upon Parnaſſus, nor did taſte the ſtream
Of Helicon; we therefore may ſuppoſe
Thoſe made not poets, but the poets thoſe.
And as courts make not kings, but kings the court,
So where the muſes and their train reſort,
Parnaſſus ſtands; if I can be to thee
A poet, thou Parnaſſus art to me.
Nor wonder, (if advantag'd in my flight,
By taking wing from thy auſpicious height)
Through untrac'd ways and airy paths I flie,
More boundleſs in my fancy than my eye:
My eye, which ſwift as thought contracts the ſpace
That lies between, and firſt ſalutes the place
Crown'd with that ſacred pile, ſo vaſt, ſo high,
That whether 'tis a part of earth, or ſky,
Uncertain ſeems, and may be thought a proud
Aſpiring mountain, or deſcending cloud,

Paul's, the late theme of ſuch a * muſe whoſe flight
Has bravely reach'd and ſoar'd above thy height:
Now ſhalt thou ſtand, though ſword, or time, or fire,
Or zeal more fierce than they, thy fall conſpire,
Secure, whilſt thee the beſt of poets ſings,
Preſerv'd from ruin by the beſt of kings.
Under his proud ſurvey the city lies,
And like a miſt beneath a hill doth riſe;
Whoſe ſtate and wealth, the buſineſs and the crowd,
Seems at this diſtance but a darker cloud:
And is to him who rightly things eſteems,
No other in effect than what it ſeems:
Where, with like haſte, through ſev'ral ways, they run,
Some to undo, and ſome to be undone;
While luxury, and wealth, like war and peace,
Are each the others ruin, and increaſe;
As rivers loſt in ſeas, ſome ſecret vein
Thence reconveys, there to be loſt again.
Oh happineſs of ſweet retir'd content!
To be at once ſecure, and innocent.
Windſor the next (where Mars with Venus dwells,
Beauty with ſtrength) above the valley ſwells
Into my eye, and doth itſelf preſent
With ſuch an eaſy and unforc'd aſcent,
That no ſtupendous precipice denies
Acceſs, no horror turns away our eyes:
But ſuch a riſe, as doth at once invite
A pleaſure, and a reverence from the ſight.

* Mr. Waller.

Thy mighty maſter's emblem, in whoſe face
Sate meekneſs, heighten'd with majeſtic grace:
Such ſeems thy gentle height, made only proud
To be the baſis of that pompous load,
Than which, a nobler weight no mountain bears,
But Atlas only which ſupports the ſpheres.
When nature's hand this ground did thus advance,
'Twas guided by a wiſer pow'r than chance;
Mark'd out for ſuch an uſe, as if 'twere meant
T'invite the builder, and his choice prevent.
Nor can we call it choice, when what we chuſe,
Folly or blindneſs only cou'd refuſe.
A crown of ſuch majeſtic tow'rs does grace
The gods great mother, when her heav'nly race
Do homage to her, yet ſhe cannot boaſt
Among that num'rous, and celeſtial hoſt,
More heroes than can Windſor, nor doth fame's
Immortal book record more noble names.
Not to look back ſo far, to whom this iſle
Owes the firſt glory of ſo brave a pile,
Whether to Caeſar, Albanact, or Brute,
The Britiſh Arthur, or the Daniſh Knute,
(Tho' this of old no leſs conteſt did move,
Than when for Homer's birth ſev'n cities ſtrove)
(Like him in birth, thou ſhould'ſt be like in fame,
As thine his fate, if mine had been his flame)
But whoſoe'er it was, nature deſign'd
Firſt a brave place, and then as brave a mind.
Not to recount thoſe ſev'ral kings, to whom
It gave a cradle, or to whom a tomb;

But thee, great ‡ Edward, and thy greater ſon,
(The lillies which his father wore, he won)
And thy † Bellona, who the conſort came
Not only to thy bed, but to thy fame,
She to thy triumph led one captive * king,
And brought that ſon, which did the ſecond bring.
Then didſt thou found that order (whether love
Or victory thy royal thoughts did move)
Each was a noble cauſe, and nothing leſs
Than the deſign, has been the great ſucceſs:
Which foreign kings, and emperors eſteem
The ſecond honour to their diadem.
Had thy great deſtiny but giv'n thee ſkill
To know, as well as pow'r to act her will,
That from thoſe kings, who then thy captives were,
In after-times ſhould ſpring a royal pair
Who ſhould poſſeſs all that thy mighty pow'r,
Or thy deſires more mighty, did devour:
To whom their better fate reſerves what-e'er
The victor hopes for, or the vanquiſht fear;
That blood, which thou and thy great grandſire ſhed,
And all that ſince theſe fiſter nations bled,
Had been unſpilt, had happy Edward known
That all the blood he ſpilt, had been his own.
When he that patron choſe, in whom are join'd
Soldier and martyr, and his arms confin'd

‡ Edward III. and the Black-Prince.
† Queen Philippa.
‡ The kings of France and Scotland.

Within the azure circle, he did ſeem
But to foretell, and propheſy of him,
Who to his realms that azure round hath join'd,
Which nature for their bound at firſt deſign'd.
That bound, which to the world's extremeſt ends,
Endleſs itſelf, its liquid arms extends.
Nor doth he need thoſe emblems which we paint,
But is himſelf the ſoldier and the ſaint.
Here ſhould my wonder dwell, and here my praiſe,
But my fix'd thoughts my wand'ring eye betrays,
Viewing a neighb'ring hill, whoſe top of late
A chapel crown'd, till in the common fate
Th' adjoining abbey fell: (may no ſuch ſtorm
Fall on our times, where ruin muſt reform.)
Tell me, my muſe, what monſtrous dire offence,
What crime could any Chriſtian king incenſe
To ſuch a rage? was't luxury, or luſt?
Was he ſo temperate, ſo chaſte, ſo juſt?
Were theſe their crimes? they were his own much more:
But wealth is crime enough to him that's poor,
Who having ſpent the treaſures of his crown,
Condemns their luxury to feed his own.
And yet this act, to varniſh o'er the ſhame
Of ſacrilege, muſt bear devotion's name.
No crime ſo bold, but would be underſtood
A real, or at leaſt a ſeeming good:
Who fears not to do ill, yet fears the name,
And free from conſcience, is a ſlave to fame:
Thus he the church at once protects, and ſpoils:
But princes ſwords are ſharper than their ſtyles.

And thus to th'ages paſt he makes amends,
Their charity deſtroys, their faith defends.
Then did religion in a lazy cell,
In empty, airy contemplations dwell;
And like the block, unmoved lay: but ours,
As much too active, like the ſtork devours.
Is there no temp'rate region can be known,
Betwixt their frigid, and our torrid zone?
Could we not wake from that lethargic dream,
But to be reſtleſs in a worſe extreme?
And for that lethargy was there no cure,
But to be caſt into a calenture?
Can knowledge have no bound, but muſt advance
So far, to make us wiſh for ignorance?
And rather in the dark to grope our way,
Than led by a falſe guide to err by day?
Who ſees theſe diſmal heaps, but would demand
What barbarous invader ſackt the land?
But when he hears, no Goth, no Turk did bring
This deſolation, but a Chriſtian king;
When nothing, but the name of zeal, appears
'Twixt our beſt actions and the worſt of theirs,
What does he think our ſacrilege would ſpare,
When ſuch th'effects of our devotions are?
Parting from thence 'twixt anger, ſhame and fear,
Thoſe for what's paſt, and this for what's too near,
My eye deſcending from the hill, ſurveys
Where Thames among the wanton vallies ſtrays.
Thames, the moſt lov'd of all the ocean's ſons
By his old ſire, to his embraces runs;

Haſting to pay his tribute to the ſea,
Like mortal life to meet eternity.
Tho' with thoſe ſtreams he no reſemblance hold,
Whoſe foam is amber, and their gravel gold;
His genuine and leſs guilty wealth t'explore,
Search not his bottom, but ſurvey his ſhore;
O'er which he kindly ſpreads his ſpacious wing,
And hatches plenty for th'enſuing ſpring.
Nor then deſtroys it with too fond a ſtay,
Like mothers which their infants overlay.
Nor with a ſudden and impetuous wave,
Like profuſe kings, reſumes the wealth he gave.
No unexpected inundations ſpoil
The mower's hopes, nor mock the plowman's toil:
But godlike his unweary'd bounty flows;
Firſt loves to do, then loves the good he does.
Nor are his bleſſings to his banks confin'd,
But free, and common, as the ſea or wind;
When he to boaſt, or to diſperſe his ſtores
Full of the tributes of his grateful ſhores,
Viſits the world, and in his flying tow'rs
Brings home to us, and makes both Indies ours;
Finds wealth where 'tis, beſtows it where it wants,
Cities in deſarts, woods in cities plants.
So that to us no thing, no place is ſtrange,
While his fair boſom is the world's exchange.
O could I flow like thee, and make thy ſtream
My great example, as it is my theme!
Tho' deep, yet clear; tho' gentle, yet not dull;
Strong without rage, without o'er-flowing full.

Heav'n her Eridanus no more ſhall boaſt,
Whoſe fame in thine, like leſſer currents loſt;
Thy nobler ſtreams ſhall viſit Jove's abodes,
To ſhine among the † ſtars, and bath the gods.
Here nature, whether more intent to pleaſe
Us or herſelf, with ſtrange varieties,
(For things of wonder give no leſs delight
To the wiſe Maker's, than beholder's ſight.
Tho' theſe delights from ſev'ral cauſes move;
For ſo our children, thus our friends we love)
Wiſely ſhe knew, the harmony of things,
As well as that of ſounds, from diſcord ſprings.
Such was the diſcord, which did firſt diſperſe
Form, order, beauty through the univerſe;
While dryneſs moiſture, coldneſs heat reſiſts,
All that we have, and that we are, ſubſiſts.
While the ſteep horrid roughneſs of the wood
Strives with the gentle calmneſs of the flood.
Such huge extremes when nature doth unite,
Wonder from thence reſults, from thence delight.
The ſtream is ſo tranſparent, pure, and clear,
That had the ſelf-enamour'd * youth gaz'd here,
So fatally deceiv'd he had not been,
While he the bottom, not his face had ſeen.
But his proud head the airy mountain hides
Among the clouds; his ſhoulders and his ſides

† The foreſt.
* Narciſſus.

A ſhady mantle cloaths; his curled brows
Frown on the gentle ſtream, which calmly flows;
While winds and ſtorms his lofty forehead beat:
The common fate of all that's high or great.
Low at his foot a ſpacious plain is plac'd,
Between the mountain and the ſtream embrac'd:
Which ſhade and ſhelter from the hill derives,
While the kind river wealth and beauty gives;
And in the mixture of all theſe appears
Variety, which all the reſt endears.
This ſcene had ſome bold Greek or Britiſh bard
Beheld of old, what ſtories had we heard
Of fairies, ſatyrs, and the nymphs their dames,
Their feaſts, their revels, and their am'rous flames?
'Tis ſtill the ſame, altho' their airy ſhape
All but a quick poetic ſight eſcape.
There Faunus and Sylvanus keep their courts,
And thither all the horned hoſt reſorts
To graze the ranker mead, that noble herd,
On whoſe ſublime and ſhady fronts is rear'd
Nature's great maſter-piece; to ſhew how ſoon
Great things are made, but ſooner are undone.
Here have I ſeen the king, when great affairs
Gave leave to ſlacken, and unbend his cares,
Attended to the chaſe by all the flow'r
Of youth, whoſe hopes a nobler prey devour:
Pleaſure with praiſe, and danger they would buy,
And wiſh a foe that would not only flie.
The ſtag now conſcious of his fatal growth,
At once indulgent to his fear and ſloth,

To ſome dark covert his retreat had made,
Where nor man's eye nor heaven's ſhould invade
His ſoft repoſe; when th' unexpected ſound
Of dogs, and men, his wakeful ear does wound:
Rouz'd with the noiſe, he ſcarce believes his ear,
Willing to think th' illuſions of his fear
Had giv'n this falſe alarm, but ſtraight his view
Confirms, that more than all he fears is true.
Betray'd in all his ſtrengths, the wood beſet;
All inſtruments, all arts of ruin met;
He calls to mind his ſtrength, and then his ſpeed,
His winged heels, and then his armed head;
With theſe t' avoid, with that his fate to meet:
But fear prevails, and bids him truſt his feet.
So faſt he flies, that his reviewing eye
Has loſt the chaſers, and his ear the cry;
Exulting, 'till he finds their nobler ſenſe
Their diſproportion'd ſpeed does recompenſe;
Then curſes his conſpiring feet, whoſe ſcent
Betrays that ſafety which their ſwiftneſs lent.
Then tries his friends; among the baſer herd,
Where he ſo lately was obey'd and fear'd,
His ſafety ſeeks: the herd, unkindly wiſe,
Or chaſes him from thence, or from him flies,
Like a declining ſtateſman, left forlorn
To his friends pity, and purſuers ſcorn,
With ſhame remembers, while himſelf was one
Of the ſame herd, himſelf the ſame had done.
Thence to the coverts, and the conſcious groves,
The ſcenes of his paſt triumphs, and his loves;

Sadly ſurveying where he rang'd alone
Prince of the ſoil; and all the herd his own;
And like a bold knight-errant did proclaim
Combat to all, and bore away the dame;
And taught the woods to echo to the ſtream
His dreadful challenge, and his claſhing beam.
Yet faintly now declines the fatal ſtrife;
So much his love was dearer than his life.
Now ev'ry leaf, and ev'ry moving breath
Preſents a foe, and ev'ry foe a death.
Weary'd, forſaken, and purſu'd, at laſt
All ſafety in deſpair of ſafety plac'd,
Courage he thence reſumes, reſolv'd to bear
All their inſults, ſince 'tis in vain to fear.
And now too late he wiſhes for the fight
That ſtrength he waſted in ignoble flight:
But when he ſees the eager chace renew'd,
Himſelf by dogs, the dogs by men purſu'd:
He ſtraight revokes his bold reſolve, and more
Repents his courage, than his fear before;
Finds that uncertain ways unſafeſt are,
And doubt a greater miſchief than deſpair.
Then to the ſtream, when neither friends, nor force,
Nor ſpeed, nor art avail, he ſhapes his courſe;
Thinks not their rage ſo deſperate t' eſſay
An element more mercileſs then they.
But fearleſs they purſue, nor can the flood
Quench their dire thirſt; alas, they thirſt for blood.
So tow'rds a ſhip the oar-finn'd gallies ply,
Which wanting ſea to ride, or wind to fly,

Stands but to fall reveng'd on thoſe that dare
Tempt the laſt fury of extreme deſpair.
So fares the ſtag among th' enraged hounds,
Repels their force, and wounds returns for wounds.
And as a hero, whom his baſer foes
In troops ſurround, now theſe aſſails, now thoſe,
Though prodigal of life, diſdains to die
By common hands; but if he can deſcry
Some nobler foe approach, to him he calls,
And begs his fate, and then contented falls.
So when the king a mortal ſhaft lets flie
From his unerring hand, then glad to die,
Proud of the wound, to it reſigns his blood,
And ſtains the cryſtal with a purple flood.
This a more innocent, and happy chaſe,
Than when of old, but in the ſelf ſame place,
Fair liberty purſu'd, * and meant a prey
To lawleſs power, here turn'd, and ſtood at bay.
When in that remedy all hope was plac'd
Which was, or ſhould have been at leaſt, the laſt.
Here was that ‡ charter ſeal'd, wherein the crown
All marks of arbitrary pow'r lays down:
Tyrant and ſlave, thoſe names of hate and fear,
The happier ſtile of king and ſubject bear:
Happy, when both to the ſame center move,
When kings give liberty, and ſubjects love.

* Runny Mead, where that great Charter was firſt ſealed.

‡ Magna Charta.

Therefore not long in force this charter ſtood;
Wanting that ſeal, it muſt be ſeal'd in blood.
The ſubjects arm'd, the more their princes gave,
Th' advantage only took, the more to crave:
Till kings by giving, gave themſelves away,
And even that power, that ſhould deny, betray.
" Who gives conſtrain'd, but his own fear reveals,
" Not thank'd but ſcorn'd; nor are they gifts, but ſpoils.
Thus kings, by graſping more than they could hold,
Firſt made their ſubjects, by oppreſſion, bold:
And popular ſway, by forcing kings to give
More than was fit for ſubjects to receive,
Ran to the ſame extremes; and one exceſs
Made both, by ſtriving to be greater, leſs.
When a calm river rais'd with ſudden rains,
Or ſnows diſſolv'd, o'erflows th' adjoining plains,
The huſbandmen with high-rais'd banks ſecure
Their greedy hopes, and this he can endure.
But if with bays and dams they ſtrive to force
His channel to a new, or narrow courſe;
No longer then within his banks he dwells,
Firſt to a torrent, then a deluge ſwells:
Stronger and fiercer by reſtraint he roars,
And knows no bound, but makes his pow'r his ſhores.

PREFACE

TO THE

DESTRUCTION OF TROY, &c.

THERE are ſo few tranſlations which deſerve praiſe, that I ſcarce ever ſaw any which deſerv'd pardon; thoſe who travel in that kind being for the moſt part ſo unhappy, as to rob others, without enriching themſelves, pulling down the fame of good authors without raiſing their own: neither hath any author been more hardly dealt withal than this our maſter; and the reaſon is evident, for, what is moſt excellent, is moſt inimitable; and if even the worſt authors are yet made worſe by their tranſlators, how impoſſible is it not to do great injury to the beſt? And therefore I have not the vanity to think my copy equal to the original, nor (conſequently) myſelf altogether guiltleſs of what I accuſe others; but if I can do Virgil leſs injury than others have done, it will be, in ſome degree, to do him right; and indeed, the hope of doing him more right, is the only ſcope of this eſſay, by opening this new way of tranſlating this author, to thoſe whom youth, leiſure, and better fortune make fitter for ſuch undertakings.

I conceive it is a vulgar error in tranſlating poets, to affect being *fidus interpres;* let that care be with them who deal in matters of fact, or matters of faith:

nt whoſoever aims at it in poetry, as he attempts what
s not required, ſo he ſhall never perform what he at-
empts; for it is not his buſineſs alone to tranſlate lan-
uage into language, but poeſy into poeſy; and poeſy
s of ſo ſubtile a ſpirit, that in the pouring out of one
anguage into another, it will all evaporate; and if a
ew ſpirit be not added in the transfuſion, there will
emain nothing but a *caput mortuum*, there being cer-
ain graces and happineſſes peculiar to every language,
hich give life and energy to the words; and whoſo-
ver offers at verbal tranſlation, ſhall have the misfor-
une of that young traveller, who loſt his own language
broad, and brought home no other inſtead of it: for
he grace of the Latin will be loſt by being turned into
Engliſh words; and the grace of the Engliſh, by being
urned into the Latin phraſe. And as ſpeech is the ap-
arel of our thoughts, ſo are there certain garbs and
odes of ſpeaking, which vary with the times; the
aſhion of our cloaths being not more ſubject to altera-
ion, than that of our ſpeech: and this I think Tacitus
eans, by that which he calls 'Sermonem temporis
iſtius auribus accommodatum;' the delight of change
eing as due to the curioſity of the ear, as of the eye;
nd therefore if Virgil muſt needs ſpeak Engliſh, it
were fit he ſhould ſpeak not only as a man of this na-
tion, but as a man of this age; and if this diſguiſe I
have put upon him (I wiſh I could give it a better name)
ſit not naturally and eaſily on ſo grave a perſon, yet it
may become him better than that fools-coat, wherein
the French and Italians have of late preſented him; at

leaſt, I hope it will not make him appear deformed, by making any part enormouſly bigger, or leſs than the life, (I having made it my principal care to follow him, as he made it his to follow nature, in all his proportions) neither have I any where offered ſuch violence to his ſenſe, as to make it ſeem mine, and not his. Where my expreſſions are not ſo full as his, either our language, or my art were defective, (but I rather ſuſpect myſelf;) but where mine are fuller than his, they are but the impreſſions which the often reading of him hath left upon my thoughts; ſo that if they are not his own conceptions, they are at leaſt the reſults of them; and if (being conſcious of making him ſpeak worſe than he did almoſt in every line) I err in endeavouring ſometimes to make him ſpeak better; I hope it will be judged an error on the right hand, and ſuch an one as may deſerve pardon, if not imitation.

THE DESTRUCTION OF TROY:

AN ESSAY ON THE SECOND BOOK OF VIRGIL's ÆNEIS.

Written in the Year 1636.

THE ARGUMENT.

THE first book ſpeaks of Æneas his voyage by ſea, and how being caſt by tempeſt upon the coaſt of Carthage, he was received by Queen Dido, who after the feaſt, deſires him to make the relation of the deſtruction of Troy; which is the argument of this book.

WHILE all with ſilence and attention wait,
Thus ſpeaks Æneas from the bed of ſtate;
Madam, when you command us to review
Our fate, you make our old wounds bleed anew,
And all thoſe ſorrows to my ſenſe reſtore,
Whereof none ſaw ſo much, none ſuffer'd more:
Not the moſt cruel of our conqu'ring foes
So uneoncern'dly can relate our woes,
As not to lend a tear; then how can I
Repreſs the horror of my thoughts, which fly

The ſad remembrance? Now th' expiring night
And the declining ſtars to reſt invite;
Yet ſince 'tis your command, what you ſo well
Are pleas'd to hear, I cannot grieve to tell.
By fate repell'd, and with repulſes tir'd,
The Greeks, ſo many lives and years expir'd,
A fabric like a moving mountain frame,
Pretending vows for their return; this fame
Divulges, then within the beaſt's vaſt womb
The choice and flow'r of all their troops entomb;
In view the iſle of Tenedos, once high,
In fame and wealth while Troy remain'd, doth lie,
(Now but an unſecure and open bay)
Thither by ſtealth the Greeks their fleet convey.
We gave them gone, and to Mycenae ſail'd,
And Troy reviv'd, her mourning face unvail'd;
All through th' unguarded gates with joy reſort
To ſee the ſlighted camp, the vacant port;
Here lay Ulyſſes, there Achilles, here
The battles join'd, the Grecian fleet rode there;
But the vaſt pile th' amazed vulgar views,
Till they their reaſon in their wonder loſe.
And firſt Thymoetes moves (urg'd by the power
Of fate, or fraud) to place it in the tower;
But Capys and the graver ſort thought fit
The Greeks ſuſpected preſent to commit
To ſeas or flames, at leaſt to ſearch and bore
The ſides, and what that ſpace contains t' explore.
Th' uncertain multitude with both engag'd,
Divided ſtands, till from the tow'r, enrag'd

Laocoon ran, whom all the crowd attends,
Crying, what deſp'rate frenzy's this, (oh friends)
To think them gone? judge rather their retreat
But a deſign, their gifts but a deceit;
For our deſtruction 'twas contriv'd no doubt,
Or from within by fraud, or from without
By force; yet know ye not Ulyſſes' ſhifts?
Their ſwords leſs danger carry than their gifts.
(This ſaid) againſt the horſe's ſide his ſpear
He throws, which trembles with incloſed fear,
Whilſt from the hollows of his womb proceed
Groans, not his own; and had not fate decreed
Our ruin, we had fill'd with Grecian blood
The place; then Troy and Priam's throne had ſtood.
Meanwhile a fetter'd priſ'ner to the king
With joyful ſhouts the Dardan ſhepherds bring,
Who to betray us did himſelf betray,
At once the taker, and at once the prey;
Firmly prepar'd, of one event ſecur'd,
Or of his death or his deſign aſſur'd.
The Trojan youth about the captive flock,
To wonder, or to pity, or to mock.
Now hear the Grecian fraud, and from this one
Conjecture all the reſt.
Diſarm'd, diſorder'd, caſting round his eyes
On all the troops that guarded him, he cries,
What land, what ſea, for me what fate attends?
Caught by my foes, condemned by my friends,
Incenſed Troy a wretched captive ſeeks
To ſacrifice; a fugitive, the Greeks.

To pity this complaint our former rage
Converts, we now enquire his parentage,
What of their counſels or affairs he knew:
Then fearleſs, he replies, Great king, to you
All truth I ſhall relate: nor firſt can I
Myſelf to be of Grecian birth deny;
And though my outward ſtate misfortune hath
Depreſt thus low, it cannot reach my faith.
You may by chance have heard the famous name
Of Palamede, who from old Belus came,
Whom, but for voting peace, the Greeks purſue,
Accus'd unjuſtly, then unjuſtly ſlew,
Yet mourn'd his death. My father was his friend,
And me to his commands did recommend,
While laws and counſels did his throne ſupport,
I but a youth, yet ſome eſteem and port
We then did bear, till by Ulyſſes' craft
(Things known I ſpeak) he was of life bereft:
Since in dark ſorrow I my days did ſpend,
Till now diſdaining his unworthy end,
I could not ſilence my complaints, but vow'd
Revenge, if ever fate or chance allow'd
My wiſh'd return to Greece; from hence his hate,
From thence my crimes, and all my ills bear date:
Old guilt freſh malice gives; the peoples ears
He fills with rumours, and their hearts with fears,
And then the prophet to his party drew.
But why do I theſe thankleſs truths purſue;
Or why defer your rage? On me, for all
The Greeks, let your revenging fury fall,

Ulyſſes this, th' Atridae this deſire
At any rate. We ſtraight are ſet on fire
Unpractis'd in ſuch myſt'ries) to enquire
The manner and the cauſe: which thus he told
With geſtures humble, as his tale was bold.
Oft have the Greeks (the ſiege deteſting) tir'd
With tedious war, a ſtol'n retreat deſir'd,
And would to heaven they'd gone: but ſtill diſmay'd
By ſeas or ſkies, unwillingly they ſtay'd.
Chiefly when this ſtupendous pile was rais'd,
Strange noiſes fill'd the air; we all amaz'd
Diſpatch Eurypylus t' enquire our fates,
Who thus the ſentence of the gods relates;
A virgin's ſlaughter did the ſtorm appeaſe,
When firſt tow'rds Troy the Grecians took the ſeas;
Their ſafe retreat another Grecian's blood
Muſt purchaſe. All at this confounded ſtood:
Each thinks himſelf the man, the fear on all
Of what, the miſchief but on one can fall.
Then Calchas (by Ulyſſes firſt inſpir'd)
Was urg'd to name whom th' angry gods requir'd;
Yet was I warn'd (for many were as well
Inſpir'd as he) and did my fate foretell.
Ten days the prophet in ſuſpence remain'd,
Would no man's fate pronounce; at laſt conſtrain'd
By Ithacus, he ſolemnly deſign'd
Me for the ſacrifice; the people join'd
In glad conſent, and all their common fear
Determine in my fate; the day drew near,
The ſacred rites prepar'd, my temples crown'd
With holy wreaths; then I confeſs I found

The means to my eſcape, my bonds I brake,
Fled from my guards, and in a muddy lake
Amongſt the ſedges all the night lay hid,
Till they their ſails had hoiſt (if ſo they did.)
And now alas no hope remains for me
My home, my father, and my ſons to ſee,
Whom they, enrag'd, will kill for my offence,
And puniſh, for my guilt, their innocence.
Thoſe gods who know the truths I now relate,
That faith which yet remains inviolate
By mortal men; by theſe I beg, redreſs
My cauſeleſs wrongs, and pity ſuch diſtreſs.
And now true pity in exchange he finds
For his falſe tears, his tongue his hands unbinds.
Then ſpake the king, be ours, whoe'er thou art,
Forget the Greeks, but firſt the truth impart,
Why did they raiſe, or to what uſe intend
This pile? to a warlike, or religious end?
Skilful in fraud, (his native art) his hands
Tow'rd heaven he rais'd, deliver'd now from bands,
Ye pure aetherial flames, ye powers ador'd
By mortal men, ye altars, and the ſword
I 'ſcap'd; ye ſacred fillets that involv'd
My deſtin'd head, grant I may ſtand abſolv'd
From all their laws and rites, renounce all name
Of faith or love, their ſecret thoughts proclaim;
Only, O Troy, preſerve thy faith to me,
If what I ſhall relate preſerveth thee.
From Pallas' favour, all our hopes, and all
Counſels and actions took original,

Till Diomed (for ſuch attempts made fit
y dire conjunction with Ulyſſes' wit)
aſſails the ſacred tower, the guards they ſlay,
Defile with bloody hands, and thence convey
The fatal image; ſtraight with our ſucceſs
Our hopes fell back, whilſt prodigies expreſs
Her juſt diſdain. Her flaming eyes did throw
Flaſhes of lightning, from each part did flow
A brinny ſweat, thrice brandiſhing her ſpear,
Her ſtatue from the ground itſelf did rear;
Then, that we ſhould our ſacrilege reſtore,
And re-convey their gods from Argos' ſhore,
Calchas perſwades, 'till then we urge in vain
The fate of Troy. To meaſure back the main
They all conſent, but to return agen,
When reinforc'd with aids of gods and men.
Thus Calchas; then inſtead of that, this pile
To Pallas was deſign'd; to reconcile
Th'offended power, and expiate our guilt;
To this vaſt height and monſtrous ſtature built,
Leſt through your gates receiv'd, it might renew
Your vows to her, and her defence to you.
But if this ſacred gift you diſ-eſteem,
Then cruel plagues (which heaven divert on them)
Shall fall on Priam's ſtate: but if the horſe
Your walls aſcend, aſſiſted by your force,
A league 'gainſt Greece all Aſia ſhall contract;
Our ſons then ſuff'ring what their ſires would act.
Thus by his fraud and our own faith o'ercome,
A feigned tear deſtroys us, againſt whom

Tydides nor Achilles could prevail,
Nor ten years conflict, nor a thouſand ſail.
This ſeconded by a moſt ſad portent,
Which credit to the firſt impoſture lent;
Laocoon, Neptune's prieſt, upon the day
Devoted to that god, a bull did ſlay,
When two prodigious ſerpents were deſcry'd,
Whoſe circling ſtrokes the ſea's ſmooth face divide;
Above the deep they raiſe their ſcaly creſts,
And ſtem the flood with their erected breaſts,
Their winding tails advance and ſteer their courſe,
And 'gainſt the ſhore the breaking billows force.
Now landing, from their brandiſht tongues there cam
A dreadful hiſs, and from their eyes a flame.
Amaz'd we flie; directly in a line
Laocoon they purſue, and firſt intwine
(Each preying upon one) his tender ſons;
Then him, who armed to their reſcue runs,
They ſeiz'd, and with entangling folds embrac'd,
His neck twice compaſſing, and twice his waſte:
Their pois'nous knots he ſtrives to break and tear,
While ſlime and blood his ſacred wreaths beſmear;
Then loudly roars, as when th' enraged bull
From th' altar flies, and from his wounded ſkull
Shakes the huge ax; the conqu'ring ſerpents flie
To cruel Pallas' altar, and there lie
Under her feet, within her ſhield's extent.
We, in our fears, conclude this fate was ſent
Juſtly on him, who ſtruck the ſacred oak
With his accurſed lance. Then to invoke

he goddeſs, and let in the fatal horſe,
e all conſent.
ſpacious breach we make, and Troy's proud wall
uilt by the gods, by our own hands doth fall;
hus, all their help to their own ruin give,
ome draw with cords, and ſome the monſter drive
ith rolls and leavers: thus our works it climbs
ig with our fate, the youth with ſongs and rhimes,
ome dance, ſome hale the rope; at laſt let down
enters with a thund'ring noiſe the town.
h Troy, the ſeat of gods, in war renown'd!
hree times it ſtuck, as oft the claſhing ſound
f arms was heard, yet blinded by the pow'r
f fate, we place it in the ſacred tow'r.
aſſandra then foretells th' event, but ſhe
inds no belief (ſuch was the gods decree)
he altars with freſh flow'rs we crown, and waſte
n feaſts that day, which was (alas!) our laſt.
ow by the revolution of the ſkies,
ight's ſable ſhadows from the ocean riſe,
hich heav'n and earth, and the Greek frauds involv'd,
he city in ſecure repoſe diſſolv'd,
hen from the admiral's high poop appears
light, by which the Argive ſquadron ſteers
heir ſilent courſe to Ilium's well-known ſhore,
hen Sinon (ſav'd by the gods partial pow'r)
pens the horſe, and through the unlockt doors
o the free air the armed freight reſtores:
lyſſes, Stheneleus, Tiſander ſlide
own by a rope, Machaon was their guide;

Atrides, Pyrrhus, Thoas, Athamas,
And Epeus who the fraud's contriver was:
The gates they ſeize; the guards, with ſleep and wi
Oppreſt, ſurprize, and then their forces join.
'Twas then, when the firſt ſweets of ſleep repair
Our bodies ſpent with toil, our minds with care;
(The gods beſt gift) when, bath'd in tears and blood,
Before my face lamenting Hector ſtood,
Such his aſpect when, ſoyl'd with bloody duſt,
Dragg'd by the cords which thro' his feet were thru
By his inſulting foe; O how transform'd,
How much unlike that Hector who return'd
Clad in Achilles' ſpoils; when he, among
A thouſand ſhips (like Jove) his lightning flung!
His horrid beard and knotted treſſes ſtood
Stiff with his gore, and all his wounds ran blood:
Intranc'd I lay, then (weeping) ſaid, The joy,
The hope and ſtay of thy declining Troy;
What region held thee, whence, ſo much deſir'd,
Art thou reſtor'd to us conſum'd and tir'd
With toils and death; but what ſad cauſe confounds
Thy once fair looks, or why appear thoſe wounds?
Regardleſs of my words, he no reply
Returns, but with a dreadful groan doth cry,
Fly from the flame, O goddeſs-born, our walls
The Greeks poſſeſs, and Troy confounded falls
From all her glories; if it might have ſtood
By any pow'r, by this right hand it ſhou'd.
What man could do, by me for Troy was done,
Take here her reliques and her gods, to run

ith them thy fate, with them new walls expect,
hich, toſt on ſeas, thou ſhalt at laſt erect:
hen brings old Veſta from her ſacred quire,
r holy wreaths, and her eternal fire.
eanwhile the walls with doubtful cries reſound
om far (for ſhady coverts did ſurround
y father's houſe) approaching ſtill more near
he claſh of arms, and voice of men we hear:
ouz'd from my bed, I ſpeedily aſcend
he houſes tops, and liſtning there attend.
s flames rowl'd by the winds conſpiring force,
'er full-ear'd corn, or torrents raging courſe
ears down th' oppoſing oaks, the fields deſtroys,
nd mocks the plow-man's toils, th' unlook'd-for noiſe
rom neighb'ring hills th' amazed ſhepherd hears;
uch my ſurprize, and ſuch their rage appears.
irſt fell thy houſe, Ucalegon, then thine
Deiphobus, Sigaean ſeas did ſhine
Bright with Troy's flames; the trumpets dreadful ſound
The louder groans of dying men confound.
Give me my arms, I cry'd, reſolv'd to throw
Myſelf 'mong any that oppos'd the foe:
Rage, anger, and deſpair at once ſuggeſt,
That of all deaths, to die in arms was beſt.
The firſt I met was Pantheus, Phoebus' prieſt,
Who 'ſcaping with his gods, and reliques fled,
And tow'rds the ſhore his little grand-child led;
Pantheus, what hope remains? what force? what place
Made good? but ſighing, he replies, alas!
Trojans we were, and mighty Ilium was;

But the laſt period and the fatal hour
Of Troy is come: our glory and our pow'r
Incenſed Jove transfers to Grecian hands;
The foe within the burning town commands;
And (like a ſmother'd fire) an unſeen force
Breaks from the bowels of the fatal horſe:
Inſulting Sinon flings about the flame,
And thouſands more than e'er from Argos came
Poſſeſs the gates, the paſſes, and the ſtreets,
And theſe the ſword o'ertakes, and thoſe it meets.
The guard nor fights nor flies; their fate ſo near
At once ſuſpends their courage and their fear.
Thus by the gods, and by Atrides' words
Inſpir'd, I make my way through fire, through ſword
Where noiſes, tumults, out-cries and alarms
I heard; firſt Iphitus renown'd for arms
We meet, who knew us (for the moon did ſhine)
Then Ripheus, Hypanis, and Dymas join
Their force, and young Choraebus Mygdon's ſon,
Who, by the love of fair Caſſandra won,
Arriv'd but lately in her father's aid;
Unhappy, whom the threats could not diſſwade
Of his prophetic ſpouſe;
Whom when I ſaw, yet daring to maintain
The fight, I ſaid, Brave ſpirits (but in vain)
Are you reſolv'd to follow one who dares
Tempt all extremes? the ſtate of our affairs
You ſee: the gods have left us, by whoſe aid
Our empire ſtood; nor can the flame be ſtaid:
Then let us fall amidſt our foes: this one
Relief the vanquiſht have, to hope for none.

Then re-inforc'd, as in a ſtormy night
Wolves urged by their raging appetite
Forage for prey, which their neglected young
With greedy jaws expect, ev'n ſo among
Foes, fire and ſwords, t'aſſured death we paſs,
Darkneſs our guide, deſpair our leader was.
Who can relate that evening's woes and ſpoils,
Or can his tears proportion to our toils?
The city, which ſo long had flouriſht, falls;
Death triumphs o'er the houſes, temples, walls.
Nor only on the Trojans fell this doom,
Their hearts at laſt the vanquiſh'd re-aſſume;
And now the victors fall: on all ſides fears,
Groans and pale death in all her ſhapes appears:
Androgeus firſt with his whole troop was caſt
Upon us, with civility miſplac'd;
Thus greeting us, You loſe, by your delay,
Your ſhare both of the honour and the prey;
Others the ſpoils of burning Troy convey
Back to thoſe ſhips, which you but now forſake.
We making no return; his ſad miſtake
Too late he finds: as when an unſeen ſnake
A traveller's unwary foot hath preſt,
Who trembling ſtarts, when the ſnake's azure creſt
Swoln with his riſing anger, he eſpies,
So from our view ſurpriz'd Androgeus flies.
But here an eaſy victory we meet:
Fear binds their hands, and ignorance their feet.
Whilſt fortune our firſt enterprize did aid,
Encourag'd with ſucceſs, Chorœbus ſaid,

O friends, we now by better fates are led,
And the fair path they lead us, let us tread.
First change your arms, and their distinctions bear;
The same, in foes, deceit and virtue are.
Then of his arms Androgeus he divests,
His sword, his shield he takes, and plumed crests,
Then Ripheus, Dymas, and the rest, all glad
Of the occasion, in fresh spoils are clad.
Thus mixt with Greeks, as if their fortune still
Follow'd their swords, we fight, pursue, and kill.
Some re-ascend the horse, and he whose sides
Let forth the valiant, now the coward hides.
Some to their safer guard, their ships, retire;
But vain's that hope, 'gainst which the gods conspire:
Behold the royal virgin, the divine
Cassandra, from Minerva's fatal shrine
Dragg'd by the hair, casting tow'rds heav'n, in vain,
Her eyes; for cords her tender hands did stain:
Choroebus at the spectacle enrag'd,
Flies in amidst the foes: we thus engag'd,
To second him, among the thickest ran;
Here first our ruin from our friends began,
Who from the temple's battlements a show'r
Of darts and arrows on our heads did pour:
They, us for Greeks, and now the Greeks (who knew
Cassandra's rescue) us for Trojans slew.
Then from all parts Ulysses, Ajax then,
And then th' Atridae rally all their men;
As winds, that meet from several coasts, contest,
Their prisons being broke, the south and west,

nd Eurus on his winged courſers born,
Triumphing in their ſpeed, the woods are torn,
nd chaſing Nereus with his trident throws
The billows from their bottom; then all thoſe
Who in the dark our fury did eſcape,
Returning, know our borrow'd arms, and ſhape,
nd diff'ring dialect: then their numbers ſwell
nd grow upon us; firſt Choroebus fell
efore Minerva's altar, next did bleed
uſt Ripheus, whom no Trojan did exceed
n virtue, yet the gods his fate decreed.
Then Hypanis and Dymas, wounded by
Their friends; nor thee Pantheus thy piety,
Nor conſecrated mitre, from the ſame
ll fate could ſave; my country's fun'ral flame
nd Troy's cold aſhes I atteſt, and call
o witneſs for myſelf, that in their fall
No foes, no death, no danger I declin'd,
id, and deſerv'd no leſs, my fate to find.
ow Iphitus with me, and Pelias
lowly retire, the one retarded was
y feeble age, the other by a wound;
o court the cry directs us, where we found
h' aſſault ſo hot, as if 'twere only there,
nd all the reſt ſecure from foes or fear:
The Greeks the gates approach'd, their targets caſt
ver their heads, ſome ſcaling ladders plac'd
gainſt the walls, the reſt the ſteps aſcend,
nd with their ſhields on their left arms defend
rrows and darts, and with their right hold faſt
he battlement; on them the Trojans caſt

Stones, rafters, pillars, beams; ſuch arms as theſe,
Now hopleſs, for their laſt defence they ſeize.
The gilded roofs, the marks of ancient ſtate,
They tumble down; and now againſt the gate
Of th' inner court their growing force they bring:
Now was our laſt effort to ſave the king,
Relieve the fainting, and ſucceed the dead.
A private gallery 'twixt th' appartments led,
Not to the foe yet known, or not obſerv'd,
(The way for Hector's hapleſs wife reſerv'd,
When to the aged king, her little ſon
She would preſent) through this we paſs, and run
Up to the higheſt battlement, from whence
The Trojans threw their darts without offence.
A tow'r ſo high, it ſeem'd to reach the ſky,
Stood on the roof, from whence we could deſcry
All Ilium——both the camps, the Grecian fleet;
This, where the beams upon the columns meet,
We looſen, which like thunder from the cloud
Breaks on their heads, as ſudden and as loud.
But others ſtill ſucceed: mean time, nor ſtones
Nor any kind of weapons ceaſe.
Before the gate in gilded armour ſhone
Young Pyrrhus, like a ſnake, his ſkin new grown,
Who fed on pois'nous herbs all winter lay
Under the ground, and now reviews the day
Freſh in his new apparel, proud and young,
Rowls up his back, and brandiſhes his tongue,
And lifts his ſcaly breaſts againſt the ſun;
With him his father's ſquire, Automedon,

And Periphas who drove his winged ſteeds,
Enter the court; whom all the youth ſucceeds
Of Scyros' iſle, who flaming firebrands ſlung
Up to the roof; Pyrrhus himſelf among
The foremoſt with an ax an entrance hews
Through beams of ſolid oak, then freely views
The chambers, galleries, and rooms of ſtate,
Where Priam and the ancient monarchs ſate.
At the firſt gate an armed guard appears;
But th' inner court with horror, noiſe and tears,
Confus'dly fill'd, the women's ſhrieks and cries
The arched vaults re-echo to the ſkies;
Sad matrons wandring through the ſpacious rooms
Embrace and kiſs the poſts: then Pyrrhus comes
Full of his father, neither men nor walls
His force ſuſtain, the torn port-cullis falls,
Then from the hinge their ſtrokes the gates divorce,
And where the way they cannot find, they force.
Not with ſuch rage a ſwelling torrent flows
Above his banks, th' oppoſing dams o'erthrows,
Depopulates the fields, the cattle, ſheep
Shepherds, and folds the foaming ſurges ſweep.
And now between too ſad extremes I ſtood,
Here Pyrrhus and th' Atridae drunk with blood,
There th' hapleſs queen amongſt an hundred dames,
And Priam quenching from his wounds thoſe flames
Which his own hands had on the altar laid:
Then they the ſecret cabinets invade,
Where ſtood the fifty nuptial beds, the hopes
Of that great race; the golden poſts, whoſe tops

Old hoſtile ſpoils adorn'd, demoliſht lay,
Or to the foe, or to the fire a prey.
Now Priam's fate perhaps you may enquire:
Seeing his empire loſt, his Troy on fire,
And his own palace by the Greeks poſſeſt,
Arms long diſus'd, his trembling limbs inveſt;
Thus on his foes he throws himſelf alone,
Not for their fate, but to provoke his own:
There ſtood an altar open to the view
Of heav'n, near which an aged laurel grew,
Whoſe ſhady arms the houſhold gods embrac'd;
Before whoſe feet the queen herſelf had caſt
With all her daughters, and the Trojan wives,
As doves when an approaching tempeſt drives
And frights into one flock; but having ſpy'd
Old Priam clad in youthful arms, ſhe cry'd,
Alas my wretched huſband, what pretence
To bear thoſe arms, and in them what defence?
Such aid ſuch times require not, when again
If Hector were alive, he liv'd in vain;
Or here we ſhall a ſanctuary find,
Or as in life, we ſhall in death be join'd.
Then weeping, with kind force held and embrac'd,
And on the ſecret ſeat the king ſhe plac'd.
Meanwhile Polites, one of Priam's ſons,
Flying the rage of bloody Pyrrhus, runs
Through foes and ſwords, and ranges all the court
And empty galleries, amaz'd and hurt;
Pyrrhus purſues him, now o'ertakes, now kills,
And his laſt blood in Priam's preſence ſpills.

The king (though him ſo many deaths incloſe)
Nor fear, nor grief, but indignation ſhows;
The gods requite thee (if within the care
Of thoſe above th' affairs of mortals are)
Whoſe fury on the ſon but loſt had been,
Had not his parents eyes his murder ſeen:
Not that Achilles (whom thou feign'ſt to be
Thy father) ſo inhuman was to me;
He bluſht, when I the rights of arms implor'd;
To me my Hector, me to Troy reſtor'd:
This ſaid, his feeble arm a javelin flung,
Which on the ſounding ſhield, ſcarce entering, rung.
Then Pyrrhus; go a meſſenger to hell
Of my black deeds, and to my father tell
The acts of his degen'rate race. So through
His ſon's warm blood, the trembling king he drew
To th' altar; in his hair one hand he wreaths;
His ſword, the other in his boſom ſheaths.
Thus fell the king, who yet ſurviv'd the ſtate,
With ſuch a ſignal and peculiar fate,
Under ſo vaſt a ruin, not a grave,
Nor in ſuch flames a funeral fire to have:
He whom ſuch titles ſwell'd, ſuch pow'r made proud,
To whom the ſceptres of all Aſia bow'd,
On the cold earth lies th' unregarded king,
A headleſs carcaſs, and a nameleſs thing.

ON THE

EARL OF STRAFFORD's

TRYAL AND DEATH.

GREAT Strafford! worthy of that name, tho' all
Of thee could be forgotten, but thy fall,
Cruſht by imaginary treaſon's weight,
Which too much merit did accumulate:
As chymiſts gold from braſs by fire would draw,
Pretexts are into treaſon forg'd by law.
His wiſdom ſuch, at once it did appear
Three kingdoms wonder, and three kingdoms fear;
Whilſt ſingle he ſtood forth, and ſeem'd, although
Each had an army, as an equal foe.
Such was his force of eloquence, to make
The hearers more concern'd than he that ſpake;
Each ſeem'd to act that part he came to ſee,
And none was more a looker on than he;
So did he move our paſſion, ſome were known
To wiſh, for the defence, the crime their own.
Now private pity ſtrove with public hate,
Reaſon with rage, and eloquence with fate:
Now they could him, if he could them forgive;
He's not too guilty, but too wiſe to live;
Leſs ſeem thoſe facts which treaſons nick-name fort,
Than ſuch a fear'd ability for more.

hey after death their fears of him expreſs,
s innocence, and their own guilt confeſs.
heir legiſlative frenzy they repent;
nacting it ſhould make no precedent.
his fate he could have 'ſcap'd, but would not loſe
onour for life, but rather nobly choſe
eath from their fears, than ſafety from his own,
hat his laſt action all the reſt might crown.

n my Lord CROFT's *and my Journey into* Poland, *from whence we brought* 100000*l. for his Majeſty, by the Decimation of his* Scottiſh *Subjects there.*

I.

TOLE, to'e,
Gentle bell, for the ſoul
f the pure ones in Pole,
Vhich are damn'd in our ſcroul.

II.

Vho having felt a touch
f Cockram's greedy clutch,
Vhich though it was not much,
et their ſtubborneſs was ſuch,

III.

hat when we did arrive,
Gainſt the ſtream we did ſtrive;
hey would neither lead nor drive:

IV.

Nor lend
n ear to a friend,

Nor an anſwer would ſend
To our letter ſo well penn'd.

V.

Nor aſſiſt our affairs
With their monies nor their wares,
As their anſwer now declares,
But only with their prayers.

VI.

Thus they did perſiſt,
Did and ſaid what they liſt,
'Till the dyet was diſmiſt;
But then our breech they kiſt.

VII.

For when
It was mov'd there and then
They ſhould pay one in ten,
The dyet ſaid, Amen.

VIII.

And becauſe they are loth
To diſcover the troth,
They muſt give word and oath,
Though they will forfeit both.

IX.

Thus the conſtitution
Condemns them every one,
From the father to the ſon.

X.

But John
(Our friend) Molleſſon,
Thought us to have out-gone
With a quaint invention.

XI.

Like the prophets of yore,
He complain'd long before,
Of the miſchiefs in ſtore,
Ay, and thrice as much more.

XII.

And with that wicked lye,
A letter they came by
From our king's majeſty.

XIII.

But fate
Brought the letter too late,
'Twas of too old a date
To relieve their damned ſtate.

XIV.

The letter's to be ſeen,
With ſeal of wax ſo green,
At Dantzige, where't has been
Turn'd into good Latin.

XV.

But he that gave the hint
This letter for to print,
Muſt alſo pay his ſtint.

XVI.

That trick,
Had it come in the nick,
Had touch'd us to the quick;
But the meſſenger fell ſick.

XVII.

Had it later been wrote,
And ſooner been brought,

They had got what they ſought,
But now it ſerves for nought.

XVIII.

On Sandys * they ran aground,
And our return was crown'd,
With full ten thouſand pound.

On Mr. THO. KILLIGREW's *Return from* VENICE, *and Mr.* WILLIAM MURREY's *from* SCOTLAND.

I.

OUR reſident Tom
From Venice is come,
And hath left the ſtateſman behind him:
Talks at the ſame pitch,
Is as wiſe, is as rich,
And juſt where you left him, you find him.

II.

But who ſays he was not
A man of much plot,
May repent that falſe accuſation;
Having plotted and penn'd
Six plays, to attend
The farce of his negotiation.

III.

Before you were told
How Satan † the old
Came here with a beard to his middle;

* Mr. W. † Mr. W. Murrey.

Though he chang'd face and name,
Old Will was the ſame,
At the noiſe of a can and a fiddle.

IV.

Theſe ſtateſmen, you believe,
Send ſtraight for the ſheriff,
For he is one too, or would be;
But he drinks no wine,
Which is a ſhrewd ſign
That all's not ſo well as it ſhould be.

V.

Theſe three, when they drink,
How little do they think
Of baniſhment, debts, or dying?
Not old with their years,
Nor cold with their fears;
But their angry ſtars ſtill defying.

VI.

Mirth makes them not mad,
Nor ſobriety ſad;
But of that they are ſeldom in danger:
At Paris, at Rome,
At the Hague they're at home;
The good fellow is no where a ſtranger.

TO

SIR JOHN MENNIS,

BEING INVITED FROM

CALAIS TO BOLOGNE,

TO EAT A PIG.

I.

ALL on a weeping Monday,
With a fat Bulgarian ſloven,
Little admiral John
To Bologne is gone
Whom I think they call old Loven.

II.

Hadſt * thou not thy fill of carting,
Will. Aubrey, count of Oxon.
When noſe lay in breech
And breech made a ſpeech,
So often cry'd a pox on?

III.

A knight by land and water
Eſteem'd at ſuch a high rate,
When 'tis told in Kent,
In a cart that he went,
They'll ſay now, hang him pirate.

---

* We three riding in a cart from Dunkirk to Calais with a fat Dutch woman, who broke wind all along.

IV.

Thou might'ſt have ta'en example,
From what thou read'ſt in ſtory;
Being as worthy to ſit
On an ambling tit
As thy predeceſſor Dory.

V.

But oh! the roof of linen,
Intended for a ſhelter!
But the rain made an aſs
Of tilt and canvaſs;
And the ſnow which you know is a melter.

VI.

But with thee to inveigle
That tender ſtripling Aſtcot,
Who was ſoak'd to the ſkin,
Through drogget ſo thin,
Having neither coat, nor waſtcoat.

VII.

He being proudly mounted,
Clad in cloak of Plymouth,
Defy'd cart ſo baſe,
For thief without grace,
That goes to make a wry mouth.

VIII.

Nor did he like the omen,
For fear it might be his doom,
One day for to ſing,
With gullet in ſtring,
A hymn of Robert Wiſdom.

IX.

But what was all this buſineſs?
For ſure it was important:
For who rides i' th' wet,
When affairs are not great,
The neighbours make but a ſport on't.

X.

To a goodly fat ſow's baby,
O John, thou hadſt a malice,
The old driver of ſwine
That day ſure was thine,
Or thou hadſt not quitted Calais.

NATURA NATURATA.

WHAT gives us that fantaſtic fit,
That all our judgment and our wit
To vulgar cuſtom we ſubmit?

Treaſon, theft, murder, and all the reſt,
Of that foul legion we ſo deteſt,
Are in their proper names expreſt.

Why is it then thought ſin or ſhame,
Thoſe neceſſary parts to name,
From whence we went, and whence we came?

Nature, whate'er ſhe wants, requires;
With love enflaming our deſires,
Finds engines fit to quench thoſe fires:

eath ſhe abhors; yet when men die,
Ve are preſent; but no ſtander-by
ooks on when we that loſs ſupply.

orbidden wares ſell twice as dear;
ven ſack prohibited laſt year,
moſt abominable rate did bear.

Tis plain our eyes and ears are nice,
nly to raiſe, by that device,
f thoſe commodities the price.

hus reaſon's ſhadows us betray,
y tropes and figures led aſtray,
rom nature, both her guide and way.

SARPEDON's SPEECH TO GLAUCUS,

In the 12th of HOMER.

Thus to Glaucus ſpake

DIVINE Sarpedon, ſince he did not find
Others, as great in place, as great in mind.
bove the reſt why is our pomp, our power?
ur flocks, our herds, and our poſſeſſions more?
Why all the tributes land and ſea affords
Heap'd in great chargers, load our ſumptuous boards?
ur chearful gueſts carouſe the ſparkling tears
f the rich grape, whilſt muſic charms their ears.

Why as we paſs, do thoſe on Xanthus' ſhore,
As gods behold us, and as gods adore?
But that as well in danger, as degree,
We ſtand the firſt; that when our Lycians ſee
Our brave examples, they admiring ſay,
Behold our gallant leaders! theſe are they
Deſerve the greatneſs; and un-envy'd ſtand:
Since what they act, tranſcends what they command.
Could the declining of this fate (oh friend)
Our date to immortality extend?
Or if death fought not them, who ſeek not death,
Would I advance? or ſhould my vainer breath
With ſuch a glorious folly thee inſpire?
But ſince with fortune nature doth conſpire,
Since age, diſeaſe, or ſome leſs noble end,
Though not leſs certain, doth our days attend;
Since 'tis decreed, and to this period lead
A thouſand ways, the nobleſt path we'll tread;
And bravely on, till they, or we, or all,
A common ſacrifice to honour fall.

MARTIAL. EPIGRAM.

Out of an Epigram of MARTIAL.

PR'YTHEE die and ſet me free,
Or elſe be
Kind and briſk, and gay like me;
I pretend not to the wiſe ones,
To the grave, to the grave,
Or the preciſe ones.

'is not cheeks, nor lips, nor eyes,
That I prize,
uick conceits, or ſharp replies,
wiſe thou wilt appear and knowing,
Repartie, Repartie,
o what I am doing.

'ythee why the room ſo dark?
Not a ſpark
eft to light me to the mark;
love day-light and a candle,
And to ſee, and to ſee,
s well as handle.

Why ſo many bolts and locks,
Coats and ſmocks,
rd thoſe drawers with a pox?
could wiſh, could nature make it,
Nakedneſs, nakedneſs
ſelf were naked.

ut if a miſtreſs I muſt have,
Wiſe and grave,
et her ſo herſelf behave
ll the day long Suſan civil,
Pap by night, pap by night,
r ſuch a devil.

FRIENDSHIP AND SINGLE LIFE.

AGAINST LOVE AND MARRIAGE.

I.

LOVE! in what poiſon is thy dart
Dipt, when it makes a bleeding heart?
None know, but they who feel the ſmart.

II.

It is not thou, but we are blind,
And our corporeal eyes (we find)
Dazzle the optics of our mind.

III.

Love to our citadel reſorts,
Through thoſe deceitful ſally-ports,
Our ſentinels betray our forts.

IV.

What ſubtile witchcraft man conſtrains,
To change his pleaſure into pains,
And all his freedom into chains?

V.

May not a priſon, or a grave,
Like wedlock, honour's title have?
That word makes free-born man a ſlave.

VI.

How happy he that loves not, lives!
Him neither hope nor fear deceives,
To fortune who no hoſtage gives.

VII.

How unconcern'd in things to come!
Where uneasy; finds at Rome,
At Paris, or Madrid, his home.

VIII.

Secure from low and private ends,
His life, his zeal, his wealth attends
His prince, his country, and his friends.

IX.

Danger and honour are his joy;
But a fond wife, or wanton boy,
May all those generous thoughts destroy.

X.

Then he lays by the public care,
Thinks of providing for an heir;
Learns how to get, and how to spare.

XI.

Nor fire, nor foe, nor fate, nor night,
The Trojan hero did affright,
Who bravely twice renew'd the fight.

XII.

Though still his foes in number grew,
Thicker their darts and arrows flew,
Yet left alone, no fear he knew.

XIII.

But death in all her forms appears,
From ev'ry thing he sees and hears,
For whom he leads, and whom he * bears.

* His father and son.

XIV.

Love making all things elſe his foes,
Like a fierce torrent overflows
Whatever doth his courſe oppoſe.

XV.

This was the cauſe the poets ſung,
Thy mother from the ſea was ſprung;
But they were mad to make thee young.

XVI.

Her father, not her ſon, art thou:
From our deſires our actions grow;
And from the cauſe th' effect muſt flow.

XVII.

Love is as old as place or time;
'Twas he the fatal tree did climb,
Grandſire of father Adam's crime.

XVIII.

Well may'ſt thou keep this world in awe;
Religion, wiſdom, honour, law,
The tyrant in his triumph draw.

XIX.

'Tis he commands the powers above;
Phoebus reſigns his darts, and Jove
His thunder, to the god of love.

XX.

To him doth his feign'd mother yield;
Nor Mars (her champion) 's flaming ſhield
Guards him, when Cupid takes the field.

XXI.

He clips hope's wings, whose airy bliss
Much higher than fruition is;
But less than nothing, if it miss.

XXII.

When matches love alone projects,
The cause transcending the effects,
That wild-fire's quencht in cold neglects.

XXIII.

Whilst those conjunctions prove the best,
Where love's of blindness dispossest,
By perspectives of interest.

XXIV.

Though Solomon with a thousand wives,
To get a wise successor strives,
But one (and he a fool) survives.

XXV.

Old Rome of children took no care,
They with their friends their beds did share,
Secure t' adopt a hopeful heir.

XXVI.

Love, drowsy days and stormy nights
Makes; and breaks friendship, whose delights
Feed, but not glut our appetites.

XXVII.

Well chosen friendship, the most noble
Of virtues, all our joys makes double,
And into halves divides our trouble.

XXVIII.

But when th' unlucky knot we tie,
Care, av'rice fear, and jealouſy
Make friendſhip languiſh till it die.

XXIX.

The wolf, the lion, and the bear,
When they their prey in pieces tear,
To quarrel with themſelves forbear.

XXX.

Yet timorous deer, and harmleſs ſheep,
When love into their veins doth creep,
That law of nature ceaſe to keep.

XXXI.

Who then can blame the am'rous boy,
Who the fair Helen to enjoy,
To quench his own, ſet fire on Troy?

XXXII.

Such is the world's prepoſterous fate,
Amongſt all creatures, mortal hate
Love (though immortal) doth create.

XXXIII.

But love may beaſts excuſe, for they
Their actions not by reaſon ſway,
But their brute appetites obey.

XXXIV.

But man's that ſavage beaſt, whoſe mind
From reaſon to ſelf-love declin'd,
Delights to prey upon his kind.

ON

MR. ABRAHAM COWLEY

His Death and Burial amongſt the Ancient Poets.

OLD Chaucer, like the morning ſtar,
To us diſcovers day from far;
His light thoſe miſts and clouds diſſolv'd,
Which our dark nation long involv'd:
But he deſcending to the ſhades,
Darkneſs again the age invades.
Next (like Aurora) Spencer roſe,
Whoſe purple bluſh the day foreſhews;
The other three, with his own fires,
Phœbus, the poets god, inſpires;
By Shakeſpear's, Johnſon's, Fletcher's lines,
Our ſtage's luſtre Rome's out-ſhines:
Theſe poets near our princes ſleep,
And in one grave their manſion keep.
They liv'd to ſee ſo many days,
Till time had blaſted all their bays:
But curſed be the fatal hour
That pluckt the faireſt, ſweeteſt flow'r
That in the muſes garden grew,
And amongſt wither'd laurels threw.

Time, which made them their fame out-live,
To Cowley ſcarce did ripeneſs give.
Old mother wit, and nature, gave
Shakeſpear and Fletcher all they have;
In Spencer, and in Johnſon, art
Of ſlower nature got the ſtart;
But both in him ſo equal are,
None knows which bears the happy'ſt ſhare;
To him no author was unknown,
Yet what he wrote was all his own;
He melted not the ancient gold,
Nor, with Ben Johnſon, did make bold
To plunder all the Roman ſtores
Of poets, and of orators:
Horace his wit, and Virgil's ſtate,
He did not ſteal, but emulate;
And when he would like them appear,
Their garb, but not their cloaths, did wear:
He not from Rome alone, but Greece,
Like Jaſon, brought the golden fleece;
To him that language (though to none
Of th' others) as his own was known.
On a ſtiff gale, (as Flaccus * ſings)
The Theban ſwan extends his wings,
When through th' aetherial clouds he flies,
To the ſame pitch our ſwan doth riſe;
Old Pindar's flights by him are reacht,
When on that gale his wings are ſtretcht;

* His Pindarics.

His fancy and his judgment ſuch,
Each to the other ſeem'd too much,
His ſevere judgment (giving law)
His modeſt fancy kept in awe:
As rigid huſbands jealous are,
When they believe their wives too fair.
His Engliſh ſtreams ſo pure did flow,
As all that ſaw and taſted know.
But for his Latin vein, ſo clear,
Strong, * full, and high it doth appear,
That were immortal Virgil here,
Him, for his judge, he would not fear;
Of that great portraicture, ſo true
A copy pencil never drew.
My muſe her ſong had ended here,
But both their genii ſtraight appear,
Joy and amazement her did ſtrike,
Two twins ſhe never ſaw ſo like.
'Twas taught by wiſe Pythagoras,
One ſoul might through more bodies paſs.
Seeing ſuch tranſmigration there,
She thought it not a fable here.
Such a reſemblance of all parts,
Life, death, age, fortune, nature, arts;
Then lights her torch at theirs, to tell,
And ſhew the world this parallel:
Fixt and contemplative their looks,
Still turning over nature's books:

* His laſt works.

Their works chaſte, moral, and divine,
Where profit and delight combine;
They gilding dirt, in noble verſe
Ruſtic philoſophy rehearſe.
When heroes, gods, or god-like kings
They praiſe, on their exalted wings
To the celeſtial orbs they climb,
And with th' harmonious ſpheres keep time:
Nor did their actions fall behind
Their word, but with like candour ſhin'd;
Each drew fair characters, yet none
Of theſe they feign'd, excels their own.
Both by two generous princes lov'd,
Who knew, and judg'd what they approv'd:
Yet having each the ſame deſire,
Both from the buſy throng retire.
Their bodies, to their minds reſign'd,
Car'd not to propagate their kind:
Yet though both fell before their hour,
Time on their off-ſpring hath no pow'r,
Nor fire, nor fate their bays ſhall blaſt,
Nor death's dark vail their day o'ercaſt.

A SPEECH AGAINST PEACE AT THE CLOSE COMMITTEE.

To the Tune of, *I went from England.*

BUT will you now to peace incline,
And languiſh in the main deſign,
And leave us in the lurch?
I would not monarchy deſtroy,
But as the only way t'enjoy
The ruin of the church.

Is not the biſhops bill deny'd,
And we ſtill threaten'd to be try'd?
You ſee the king embraces
Thoſe counſels he approv'd before:
Nor doth he promiſe, which is more,
That we ſhall have their places.

Did I for this bring in the Scot?
(For 'tis no ſecret) now the plot
Was Saye's and mine together:
Did I for this return again,
And ſpend a winter there in vain,
Once more t'invite them hither?

Though more our money than our cauſe
Their brotherly aſſiſtance draws,
My labour was not loſt
At my return I brought you thence
Neceſſity, their ſtrong pretence,
And theſe ſhall quit the coſt.

Did I for this my country bring
To help their knight againſt their king,
And raiſe the firſt ſedition?
Though I the buſineſs did decline,
Yet I contriv'd the whole deſign,
And ſent them their petition.

So many nights ſpent in the city,
In that inviſible committee,
The wheel that governs all.
From thence the change in church and ſtate,
And all the miſchief bears the date
From Haberdaſhers hall.

Did we force Ireland to deſpair,
Upon the king to caſt the war,
To make the world abhor him,
Becauſe the rebels us'd his name?
Though we ourſelves can do the ſame,
While both alike were for him.

Then the ſame fire we kindled here
With that was given to quench it there,
And wiſely loſt that nation:

To do as crafty beggars uſe,
To maim themſelves, thereby t'abuſe
The ſimple man's compaſſion.

Have I ſo often paſt between
Windſor and Weſtminſter,
And did myſelf divide:
To keep his excellence in awe,
And give the parliament the law?
For they knew none beſide.

Did I for this take pains to teach
Our zealous ignorants to preach,
And did their lungs inſpire;
Gave them their texts, ſhew'd them their parts,
And taught them all their little arts,
To fling abroad the fire?

Sometimes to beg, ſometimes to threaten,
And ſay the cavaliers are beaten,
To ſtroke the people's ears;
Then ſtraight when victory grows cheap,
And will no more advance the heap,
To raiſe the price of fears.

And now the books, and now the bells,
And now our act the preacher tells,
To edify the people;
All our divinity is news,
And we have made of equal uſe
The pulpit and the ſteeple.

And ſhall we kindle all this flame
Only to put it out again,
And muſt we now give o'er,
And only end where we begun?
In vain this miſchief we have done,
If we can do no more.

If men in peace can have their right,
Where's the neceſſity to fight,
That breaks both law, and oath?
They'll ſay they fight not for the cauſe,
Nor to defend the king and laws,
But us againſt them both.

Either the cauſe at firſt was ill,
Or being good, it is ſo ſtill;
And thence they will infer,
That either now or at the firſt
They were deceiv'd, or, which is worſt,
That we ourſelves may err,

But plague and famine will come in,
For they and we are near of kin,
And cannot go aſunder:
But while the wicked ſtarve, indeed
The ſaints have ready at their need
God's providence, and plunder.

Princes we are if we prevail,
And gallant villains if we fail:
When to our fame 'tis told,

will not be our leaſt of praiſe,
nce a new ſtate we could not raiſe,
To have deſtroy'd the old.

hen let us ſtay and fight, and vote,
ill London is not worth a groat;
Oh 'tis a patient beaſt!
hen we have gall'd and tir'd the mule,
nd can no longer have the rule,
We'll have the ſpoil at leaſt.

TO THE
FIVE MEMBERS
OF THE HONOURABLE
HOUSE of COMMONS,

The humble Petition of the POETS.

AFTER ſo many concurring petitions
From all ages and ſexes, and all conditions,
e come in the rear to preſent our follies
o Pym, Stroude, Haſlerig, H. and H.
hough ſet-form of prayer be an abomination,
et-forms of petitions find great approbation:
herefore, as others from th'bottom of their ſouls,
o we from the depth and bottom of our bowls,
ccording unto the bleſſed form you have taught us,
e thank you firſt for the ills you have brought us:

For the good we receive, we thank him that gave it,
And you for the confidence only to crave it.
Next in courſe, we complain of the great violation
Of privilege (like the reſt of our nation)
But 'tis none of yours of which we have ſpoken,
Which never had being, until they were broken:
But ours is a privilege antient and native,
Hangs not on an ordinance, or power legiſlative.
And firſt, 'tis to ſpeak whatever we pleaſe,
Without fear of a priſon or purſuivant's fees.
Next, that we only may lye by authority;
But in that alſo you have got the priority.
Next, an old cuſtom, our fathers did name it
Poetical licenſe, and always did claim it.
By this we have power to change age into youth,
Turn non-ſenſe to ſenſe, and falſhood to truth;
In brief, to make good whatſoever is faulty;
This art ſome poet, or the devil has taught ye:
And this our property you have invaded,
And a privilege of both houſes have made it.
But that truſt above all in poets repoſed,
That kings by them only are made and depoſed,
This though you cannot do, yet you are willing:
But when we undertake depoſing or killing.
They're tyrants and monſters; and yet then the poet
Takes full revenge on the villains that do it:
And when we reſume a ſcepter or a crown,
We are modeſt, and ſeek not to make it our own.
But is't not preſumption to write verſes to you,
Who make the better poems of the two?

For all thoſe pretty knacks you compoſe,
Alas, what are they but poems in proſe?
And between thoſe and ours there's no difference,
But that yours want the rhime, the wit and the ſenſe:
But for lying (the moſt noble part of a poet)
You have it abundantly, and yourſelves know it;
And though you are modeſt and ſeem to abhor it,
'T has done you good ſervice, and thank hell for it:
Although the old maxim remains ſtill in force,
That a ſanctified cauſe muſt have a ſanctified courſe.
If poverty be a part of our trade,
So far the whole kingdom poets you have made,
Nay even ſo far as undoing will do it,
You have made king Charles himſelf a poet:
But provoke not his muſe, for all the world knows,
Already you have had too much of his proſe.

A
WESTERN WONDER.

DO you not know, not a fortnight ago,
How they bragg'd of a weſtern wonder?
When a hundred and ten ſlew five thouſand men
With the help of lightning and thunder?

There Hopton was ſlain, again and again,
Or elſe my author did lie;
With a new thanksgiving, for the dead who are living,
To God, and his ſervant Chidleigh.

But now on which ſide was this miracle try'd,
I hope we at laſt are even;
For Sir Ralph and his knaves are riſen from their graves,
To cudgel the clowns of Devon.

And there Stamford came, for his honour was lame
Of the gout three months together;
But it prov'd, when they fought, but a running gout,
For his heels were lighter than ever.

For now he out-runs his arms and his guns,
And leaves all his money behind him;
But they follow after; unleſs he take water,
At Plymouth again they will find him.

What Reading hath coſt, and Stamford hath loſt,
Goes deep in the ſequeſtrations;
Theſe wounds will not heal, with your new great ſeal,
Nor Jepſon's declarations.

Now, Peters, and Caſe, in your prayer and grace
Remember the new thanksgiving;
Iſaac and his wife, now dig for your life,
Or ſhortly you'll dig for your living.

A SECOND WESTERN WONDER.

YOU heard of that wonder, of the lightning and thunder,
Which made the lie ſo much the louder:
Now liſt to another, that miracle's brother,
Which was done with a firkin of powder.

Oh what a damp it ſtruck through the camp!
But as for honeſt Sir Ralph,
It blew him to the Vies, without beard, or eyes,
But at leaſt three heads and a half.

When out came the book, which the news-monger took
From the preaching ladies letter,
Where in the firſt place, ſtood the conqueror's face,
Which made it ſhew much the better.

But now without lying, you may paint him flying,
At Briſtol they ſay you may find him,
Great William the Con, ſo faſt he did run,
That he left half his name behind him.

And now came the poſt, ſaves all that was loſt,
But alas, we are paſt deceiving
By a trick ſo ſtale, or elſe ſuch a tale
Might amount to a new thanksgiving.

This made Mr. Caſe, with a pitiful face,
In the pulpit to fall a weeping,
Though his mouth utter'd lies, truth fell from his eyes,
Which kept the lord-mayor from ſleeping.

Now ſhut up ſhops, and ſpend your laſt drops,
For the laws nor your cauſe, you that loth 'em,
Leſt Eſſex ſhould ſtart, and play the ſecond part
Of worſhipful Sir John Hotham.

NEWS FROM COLCHESTER.

Or, A proper new Ballad of certain carnal Poſſeges betwixt a Quaker *and a* Colt, *at* Horſly *near* Colcheſter *in* Eſſex.

To the tune of *Tom of Bedlam.*

I.

ALL in the land of Eſſex,
Near Colcheſter the zealous,
On the ſide of a bank
Was play'd ſuch a prank,
As would make a ſtone-horſe jealous.

II.

Help Woodcock, Fox and Naylor,
For brother Green's a ſtallion:
Now alas what hope
Of converting the Pope,
When a quaker turns Italian?

III.

Even to our whole profeſſion
A ſcandal 'twill be counted,
When 'tis talk'd with diſdain,
Amonſt the prophane,
How brother Green was mounted.

IV.

And in the good time of Chriſtmas,
Which though our ſaints have damn'd all,
Yet when they did hear
That a damn'd cavalier
E'er play'd ſuch a Chriſtmas gambol?

V.

Had thy fleſh, O Green, been pamper'd
With any cates unhallow'd,
Hadſt thou ſweetned thy gums
With pottage of plumes,
Or prophane mince pie hadſt ſwallow'd?

VI.

Roll'd up in wanton ſwine's fleſh,
The fiend might have creep'd into thee;
Then fulneſs of gout
Might have caus'd thee to rut,
And the devil have ſo rid through thee.

VII.

But alas he had been feaſted
With a ſpiritual collation,
By our frugal mayor,
Who can dine on a prayer,
And ſup on an exhortation.

VIII.

'Twas meer impulſe of ſpirit,
Though he us'd the weapon carnal:
Filly foal, quoth he,
My bride thou ſhalt be:
And how this is lawful, learn all.

IX.

For if no reſpect of perſons
Be due 'mongſt ſons of Adam,
In a large extent
Thereby may be meant
That a mare's as good as a madam.

X.

Then without more ceremony,
Not bonnet vail'd, nor kiſt her,
But took her by force,
For better for worſe,
And us'd her like a ſiſter.

XI.

Now when in ſuch a ſaddle
A ſaint will needs be riding,
Though we dare not ſay
'Tis a falling away,
May there not be ſome back-ſliding?

XII.

No ſurely, quoth James Naylor,
'Twas but an inſurrection
Of the carnal part,
For a quaker in heart
Can never loſe perfection.

XIII.

For (as our * maſters teach us)
The intent being well directed,
Though the devil trepan
The Adamical man,
The ſaint ſtands un-infected.

XIV.

But alas a Pagan jury
Ne'er judges what's intended;
Then ſay what we can,
Brother Green's outward man
I fear will be ſuſpended.

XV.

And our adopted ſiſter
Will find no better quarter,
But when him we inrol
For a ſaint, filly foal
Shall paſs herſelf for a martyr.

XVI.

Rome, that ſpiritual Sodom,
No longer is thy debtor,
O Colcheſter, now
Who's Sodom but thou,
Even according to the letter?

* The Jeſuits.

A SONG.

MORPHEUS, the humble god, that dwells
In cottages and ſmoaky cells,
Hates gilded roofs and beds of down;
And though he fears no prince's frown,
Flies from the circle of a crown.

Come, I ſay, thou pow'rful god,
And thy leaden charming rod,
Dipt in the Lethean lake,
O'er his wakeful temples ſhake,
Leſt he ſhould ſleep, and never wake.

Nature (alas) why art thou ſo
Obliged to thy greateſt foe?
Sleep that is thy beſt repaſt,
Yet of death it bears a taſte,
And both are the ſame thing at laſt.

ON

Mr. JOHN FLETCHER'S

WORKS.

SO ſhall we joy, when all whom beaſts and worms
Had turn'd to their own ſubſtances and forms,
Whom earth to earth, or fire hath chang'd to fire,
We ſhall behold more than at firſt entire;
As now we do, to ſee all thine thy own
In this my muſe's reſurrection,
Whoſe ſcatter'd parts from thy own race, more wounds
Hath ſuffer'd, than Acteon from his hounds;
Which firſt their brains, and then their belly fed,
And from their excrements new poets bred.
But now thy muſe enraged, from her urn
Like ghoſts of murder'd bodies does return
T'accuſe the murderers, to right the ſtage,
And undeceive the long abuſed age,
Which caſts thy praiſe on them, to whom thy wit
Gives not more gold than they give droſs to it:
Who not content like felons to purloin,
Add treaſon to it, and debaſe the coin.
But whither am I ſtray'd? I need not raiſe
Trophies to thee from other men's diſpraiſe;
Nor is thy fame on leſſer ruins built,
Nor needs thy juſter title the foul guilt

Of eaſtern kings, who to ſecure their reign,
Muſt have their brothers, ſons, and kindred ſlain.
Then was wit's empire at the fatal height,
When labouring and ſinking with its weight,
From thence a thouſand leſſer poets ſprung,
Like petty princes from the fall of Rome;
When Johnſon, Shakeſpear, and thyſelf did ſit,
And ſway'd in the triumvirate of wit——
Yet what from Johnſon's oil and ſweat did flow,
Or what more eaſy nature did beſtow
On Shakeſpear's gentler muſe, in thee full-grown
Their graces both appear, yet ſo that none
Can ſay here nature ends, and art begins,
But mixt like th' elements and born like twins,
So interweav'd, ſo like, ſo much the ſame,
None, this mere nature, that mere art can name:
'Twas this the ancients meant; nature and ſkill
Are the two tops of their Parnaſſus' hill.

TO

SIR RICHARD FANSHAW,

Upon his TRANSLATION of

PASTOR FIDO.

SUCH is our pride, our folly, or our fate,
That few but ſuch as cannot write, tranſlate.
But what in them is want of art or voice,
In thee is either modeſty or choice.
While this great piece, reſtor'd by thee, doth ſtand
Free from the blemiſh of an artleſs hand,
Secure of fame, thou juſtly doſt eſteem
Leſs honour to create, than to redeem.
Nor ought a genius leſs than his that writ,
Attempt tranſlation; for tranſplanted wit,
All the defects of air and ſoil doth ſhare,
And colder brains like colder climates are:
In vain they toil, ſince nothing can beget
A vital ſpirit but a vital heat.
That ſervile path thou nobly doſt decline
Of tracing word by word, and line by line.
Thoſe are the labour'd births of ſlaviſh brains,
Not the effect of poetry, but pains;
Cheap vulgar arts, whoſe narrowneſs affords
No flight for thoughts, but poorly ſticks at words.

A new and nobler way thou doſt purſue
To make tranſlations and tranſlators too.
They but preſerve the aſhes, thou the flame,
True to his ſenſe, but truer to his fame.
Fording his current, where thou find'ſt it low
Let'ſt in thine own to make it riſe and flow;
Wiſely reſtoring whatſoever grace
It loſt by change of times, or tongues, or place.
Nor fetter'd to his numbers and his times,
Betray'ſt his muſic to unhappy rhimes.
Nor are the nerves of his compacted ſtrength
Stretch'd and diſſolv'd into unſinew'd length:
Yet after all, (leſt we ſhould think it thine)
Thy ſpirit to his circle doſt confine.
New names, new dreſſings, and the modern caſt,
Some ſcenes, ſome perſons alter'd, and outfac'd
The world, it were thy work; for we have known
Some thank'd and prais'd for what was leſs their own
That maſter's hand which to the life can trace
The airs, the lines, and features of the face,
May with a free and bolder ſtroke expreſs
A vary'd poſture, or a flatt'ring dreſs;
He could have made thoſe like, who made the reſt,
But that he knew his own deſign was beſt.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN SIR JOHN POOLEY AND MR. THOMAS KILLIGREW.

TO thee, dear Thom, myſelf addreſſing,
Moſt querimonioufly confeſſing,
That I of late have been compreſſing.

Deſtitute of my wonted gravity,
I perpetrated acts of pravity,
In a contagious concavity.

Making efforts with all my puiſſance,
For ſome venereal rejouiſſance,
I got (as one may ſay) a nuiſance.

Come leave this fooling, couſin Pooley,
And in plain Engliſh tell us truly
Why under th' eyes you look ſo bluely?

'Tis not your hard words will avail you,
Your Latin and your Greek will fail you,
Till you ſpeak plainly what doth ail you.

When young, you led a life monaſtic,
And wore a veſt eccleſiaſtic;
Now in your age you grow fantaſtic.

P. Without more preface or formality,
A female of malignant quality
Set fire on label of mortality.

The faeces of which ulceration
Brought o'er the helm a diſtillation,
Through th' inſtrument of propagation.

K. Then couſin, (as I gueſs the matter)
You have been an old fornicator,
And now are ſhot 'twixt wind and water.

Your ſtyle has ſuch an ill complection,
That from your breath I fear infection,
That even your mouth needs an injection.

You that were once ſo oeconomic,
Quitting the thrifty ſtyle Laconic,
Turn prodigal in Makeronic.

Yet be of comfort, I ſhall ſend a
Perſon of knowledge, who can mend a
Diſaſter in your nether end-a——

Whether it pullen be or ſhanker,
Cordee and crooked like an anchor,
Your cure too coſts you but a ſpanker.

Or though your piſs be ſharp as razor,
Do but confer with Dr. Frazer,
He'll make your running nag a pacer.

Nor ſhall you need your ſilver quick Sir,
Take Mongo Murray's black Elixir,
And in a week it cures your p—— Sir.

But you that are a man of learning,
So read in Virgil, ſo diſcerning,
Methinks towards fifty ſhou'd take warning.

Once in a pit you did * miſcarry,
That danger might have made one wary;
This pit is deeper than the quarry.

Give me not ſuch diſconſolation,
Having now cur'd my inflammation,
To ulcerate my reputation.

Though it may gain the ladies favour,
Yet it may raiſe an evil ſavour
Upon all grave and ſtaid behaviour.

* Hunting near Paris he and his horſe fell into a quarry.

And I will rub my Mater Pia,
To find a rhyme to Gonorrhœa,
And put it in my Litania.

An occaſional IMITATION of a modern AUTHOR upon the GAME of CHESS.

A Tablet ſtood of that abſterſive tree,
Where Æthiop's ſwarthy bird did build her neſt;
Inlaid it was with Libyan ivory,
Drawn from the jaws of Afric's prudent beaſt.
Two kings like Saul, much taller than the reſt,
Their equal armies draw into the field;
Till one take th' other priſoner they conteſt;
Courage and fortune muſt to conduct yield.
This game the Perſian Magi did invent,
The force of eaſtern wiſdom to expreſs;
From thence to buſy Europeans ſent,
And ſtyl'd by modern Lumbards Penſive Cheſs.
Yet ſome that fled from Troy to Rome report,
Penthesilea Priam did oblige;
Her Amazons, his Trojans taught this ſport,
To paſs the tedious hours of ten years ſiege.
There ſhe preſents herſelf, whilſt king and peers
Look gravely on whilſt fierce Bellona fights;
Yet maiden modeſty her motion ſteers,
Nor rudely ſkips o'er biſhops heads like knights.

THE PASSION OF DIDO FOR AENEAS.

HAving at large declar'd Jove's embaſſy,
* Cyllenius from Æneas ſtraight doth fly;
He loth to diſobey the god's command,
Nor willing to forſake this pleaſant land,
Aſham'd the kind Eliza to deceive,
But more afraid to take a ſolemn leave;
He many ways his lab'ring thoughts revolves,
But fear o'ercoming ſhame, at laſt reſolves
Inſtructed by the * god of thieves) to ſteal
Himſelf away, and his eſcape conceal.
He calls his captains, bids them rig the fleet,
That at the port they privately ſhould meet;
And ſome diſſembled colour to project,
That Dido ſhould not their deſign ſuſpect:
But all in vain he did his plot diſguiſe;
No art a watchful lover can ſurprize.
She the firſt motion finds; love though moſt ſure,
Yet always to itſelf ſeems unſecure.
That wicked fame which their firſt love proclaim'd,
Fore-tells the end: the queen with rage inflam'd,

* Mercury.

Thus greets him: Thou diſſembler, wouldſt thou fly
Out of my arms by ſtealth perfidiouſly?
Could not the hand I plighted, nor the love,
Nor thee the fate of dying Dido move?
And in the depth of winter in the night,
Dark as thy black deſigns to take thy flight,
To plow the raging ſeas to coaſts unknown,
The kingdom thou pretend'ſt to, not thine own!
Were Troy reſtor'd, thou ſhouldſt miſtruſt a wind
Falſe as thy vows, and as thy heart unkind.
Fly'ſt thou from me? By theſe dear drops of brine
I thee adjure, by that right hand of thine,
By our eſpouſals, by our marriage-bed,
And all my kindneſs ought have merited;
If ever I ſtood fair in thy eſteem,
From ruin, me, and my loſt houſe redeem.
Cannot my prayers a free acceptance find?
Nor my tears ſoften an obdurate mind?
My fame of chaſtity, by which the ſkies
I reacht before, by thee extinguiſht dies.
Into my borders now Iarbas falls,
And my revengeful brother ſcales my walls;
The wild Numidians will advantage take,
For thee both Tyre and Carthage me forſake.
Hadſt thou before thy flight but left with me
A young Æneas, who, reſembling thee,
Might in my ſight have ſported, I had then
Not wholly loſt, nor quite deſerted been;
By thee, no more my huſband, but my gueſt,
Betray'd to miſchiefs, of which death's the leaſt.

With fixed looks he ſtands, and in his breaſt
By Jove's command his ſtruggling care ſuppreſt.
Great Queen, your favours and deſerts ſo great,
Though numberleſs, I never ſhall forget;
No time, until myſelf I have forgot,
Out of my heart Eliza's name ſhall blot:
But my unwilling flight the gods inforce,
And that muſt juſtify our ſad divorce.
Since I muſt you forſake, would fate permit,
To my deſires I might my fortune fit;
Troy to her ancient ſplendor I would raiſe,
And where I firſt began, would end my days.
But ſince the Lycian lots, and Delphic god
Have deſtin'd Italy for our abode;
Since you prond Carthage (fled from Tyre) enjoy,
Why ſhould not Latium us receive from Troy?
As for my ſon, my father's angry ghoſt
Tells me his hopes by my delays are croſt,
And mighty Jove's ambaſſador appear'd
With the ſame meſſage, whom I ſaw and heard;
We both are griev'd when you or I complain,
But much the more when all complaints are vain;
I call to witneſs all the gods, and thy
Beloved head, the coaſt of Italy
Againſt my will I ſeek.
Whilſt thus he ſpeaks, ſhe rowls her ſparkling eyes,
Surveys him round, and thus incens'd replies;
Thy mother was no goddeſs, nor thy ſtock
From Dardanus, but in ſome horrid rock,

Perfidious wretch, rough Caucaſus thee bred,
And with their milk Hyrcanian tygers fed.
Diſſimulation I ſhall now forget,
And my reſerves of rage in order ſet.
Could all my prayers and ſoft entreaties force
Sighs from his breaſt, or from his look remorſe.
Where ſhall I firſt complain? Can mighty Jove
Or Juno ſuch impieties approve?
The juſt Aſtraea ſure is fled to hell;
Nor more in earth, nor heav'n itſelf will dwell.
Oh faith! him on my coaſts by tempeſt caſt,
Receiving madly, on my throne I plac'd;
His men from famine, and his fleet from fire
I reſcu'd: now the Lycian lots conſpire
With Phoebus; now Jove's envoyé through the air
Brings diſmal tidings; as if ſuch low care
Could reach their thoughts, or their repoſe diſturb!
Thou art a falſe impoſtor, and a fourbe;
Go, go, purſue thy kingdom through the main,
I hope, if Heav'n her juſtice ſtill retain,
Thou ſhalt be wrackt, or caſt upon ſome rock,
Where thou the name of Dido ſhalt invoke;
I'll follow thee in fun'ral flames, when dead
My ghoſt ſhall thee attend at board and bed,
And when the gods on thee their vengeance ſhow,
That welcome news ſhall comfort me below.
This ſaying, from his hated ſight ſhe fled;
Conducted by her damſels to her bed;
Yet reſtleſs ſhe aroſe, and looking out,
Beholds the fleet, and hears the ſea-men ſhout:

When great Æneas paſs'd before the guard,
To make a view how all things were prepar'd.
Ah cruel love! to what doſt thou inforce
Poor mortal breaſts? Again ſhe hath recourſe
To tears, and prayers, again ſhe feels the ſmart
Of a freſh wound from his tyrannic dart.
That ſhe no ways nor means may leave untry'd,
Thus to her ſiſter ſhe herſelf apply'd:
Dear ſiſter, my reſentment had not been
So moving, if this fate I had fore-ſeen;
Therefore to me this laſt kind office do,
Thou haſt ſome int'reſt in our ſcornful foe,
He truſts to thee the counſels of his mind,
Thou his ſoft hours, and free acceſs canſt find;
Tell him I ſent not to the Ilian coaſt
My fleet to aid the Greeks; his father's ghoſt
I never did diſturb; aſk him to lend
To this, the laſt requeſt that I ſhall ſend,
A gentle ear; I wiſh that he may find
A happy paſſage, and a proſp'rous wind.
That contract I not plead, which he betray'd,
Nor that his promis'd conqueſt be delay'd;
All that I aſk, is but a ſhort reprieve,
Till I forget to love, and learn to grieve;
Some pauſe and reſpite only I require,
Till with my tears I ſhall have quencht my fire.
If thy addreſs can but obtain one day
Or two, my death that ſervice ſhall repay.
Thus ſhe intreats; ſuch meſſages with tears
Condoling Anne to him, and from him bears;

But him no prayers, no arguments can move;
The fates reſiſt, his ears are ſtopt by Jove.
As when fierce northern blaſts from th'Alps deſcend,
From his firm roots with ſtruggling guſts to rend
An aged ſturdy oak, the rattling ſound
Grows loud, with leaves and ſcatter'd arms the ground
Is over-laid; yet he ſtands fixt, as high
As his proud head is rais'd towards the ſky,
So low tow'rds hell his roots deſcend. With pray'rs
And tears the hero thus aſſail'd, great cares
He ſmothers in his breaſt, yet keeps his poſt,
All their addreſſes and their labour loſt.
Then ſhe deceives her ſiſter with a ſmile:
Anne in the inner court erect a pile;
Thereon his arms and once-lov'd portrait lay,
Thither our fatal marriage-bed convey;
All curſed monuments of him with fire
We muſt aboliſh (ſo the gods require.)
She gives her credit, for no worſe effect
Than from Sichaeus' death ſhe did ſuſpect,
And her commands obeys.
Aurora now had left Tithonus' bed,
And o'er the world her bluſhing rays did ſpread;
The queen beheld, as ſoon as day appear'd,
The navy under ſail, the haven clear'd;
Thrice with her hand her naked breaſt ſhe knocks,
And from her forehead tears her golden locks.
O Jove, ſhe cry'd, and ſhall he thus delude
Me and my realm! Why is he not purſu'd?

rm, arm, she cry'd, and let our Tyrians board
Vith ours his fleet, and carry fire and sword;
eave nothing unattempted to destroy
hat perjur'd race, then let us die with joy.
Vhat if th' event of war uncertain were?
or death, nor danger, can the desp'rate fear.
ut oh too late! this thing I should have done,
Vhen first I plac'd the traitor on my throne.
ehold the faith of him who sav'd from fire
is honour'd household gods, his aged sire
is pious shoulders from Troy's flames did bear;
Vhy did I not his carcass piece-meal tear,
nd cast it in the sea? Why not destroy
ll his companions, and beloved boy
scanius? and his tender limbs have dress,
nd made the father on the son to feast?
hou sun, whose lustre all things here below
urveys; and Juno, conscious of my woe;
evengeful Furies, and queen Hecate,
eceive and grant my pray'r! if he the sea
ust needs escape, and reach th' Ausonian land,
f Jove decree it, Jove's decree must stand;
When landed, may he be with arms oppress
y his rebelling people, be distress
y exile from his country, be divorc'd
rom young Ascanius' sight, and be enforc'd
o implore foreign aids, and lose his friends
y violent and undeserved ends:
When to conditions of unequal peace
e shall submit, then may he not possess

Kingdom nor life, and find his funeral
I' th' ſands, when he before his day ſhall fall:
And ye, oh Tyrians, with immortal hate
Purſue this race, this ſervice dedicate
To my deplored aſhes; let there be
'Twixt us and them no league nor amity.
May from my bones a new Achilles riſe,
That ſhall infeſt the Trojan colonies
With fire, and ſword, and famine, when at length
Time to our great attempts contributes ſtrength;
Our ſeas, our ſhores, our armies theirs oppoſe,
And may our children be for ever foes.
A ghaſtly paleneſs death's approach portends,
Then trembling ſhe the fatal pile aſcends;
Viewing the Trojan reliques, ſhe unſheath'd
Æneas' ſword, not for that uſe bequeath'd:
Then on the guilty bed ſhe gently lays
Herſelf, and ſoftly thus lamenting prays;
Dear reliques, whilſt that gods and fates gave leave,
Free me from care, and my glad ſoul receive.
That date which fortune gave, I now muſt end,
And to the ſhades a noble ghoſt deſcend.
Sichaeus' blood, by his falſe brother ſpilt,
I have reveng'd, and a proud city built;
Happy, alas! too happy I had liv'd,
Had not the Trojan on my coaſt arriv'd.
But ſhall I die without revenge? Yet die
Thus, thus with joy to thy Sichaeus fly.
My conſcious foe my funeral fire ſhall view
From ſea, and may that omen him purſue.

Her fainting hand let fall the ſword beſmear'd
With blood, and then the mortal wound appear'd;
Through all the court the fright and clamours riſe,
Which the whole city fills with fears and cries,
As loud as if her Carthage, or old Tyre
The foe had enter'd, and had ſet on fire.
Amazed Anne with ſpeed aſcends the ſtairs,
And in her arms her dying ſiſter rears:
Did you for this, yourſelf, and me beguile?
For ſuch an end did I erect this pile?
Did you ſo much deſpiſe me, in this fate
Myſelf with you not to aſſociate?
Yourſelf and me, alas! this fatal wound,
The ſenate, and the people, doth confound.
I'll waſh her wounds with tears, and at her death,
My lips from hers ſhall draw her parting breath.
Then with her veſt the wound ſhe wipes and dries;
Thrice with her arm the queen attempts to riſe,
But her ſtrength failing, falls into a ſwound,
Life's laſt efforts yet ſtriving with her wound;
Thrice on her bed ſhe turns, with wandring ſight
Seeking, ſhe groans when ſhe beheld the light.
Then Juno pitying her diſaſtrous fate,
Sends Iris down, her pangs to mitigate.
(Since if we fall before th' appointed day,
Nature and death continue long their fray.)
Iris deſcends; This fatal lock (ſays ſhe)
To Pluto I bequeath, and ſet thee free;
Then clips her hair: cold numbneſs ſtraight bereaves
Her corpſe of ſenſe, and th' air her ſoul receives.

A PREFACE TO THE FOLLOWING TRANSLATION

GOING this laſt ſummer to viſit the Wells, I took an occaſion (by the way) to wait upon an ancient and honourable friend of mine, whom I found diverting his (then ſolitary) retirement with the Latin original of this tranſlation, which (being out of print) I had never ſeen before: when I looked upon it, I ſaw that it had formerly paſſed through two learned hands, not without approbation; which were Ben Johnſon and Sir Kenelme Digby; but I found it, (where I ſhall never find myſelf) in the ſervice of a better maſter, the Earl of Briſtol, of whom I ſhall ſay no more; for I love not to improve the honour of the living, by impairing that of the dead; and my own profeſſion hath taught me, not to erect new ſuperſtructions upon an old ruin. He was pleaſed to recommend it to me for my companion at the Wells, where I liked the entertainment it gave me ſo well, that I undertook to redeem it from an obſolete Engliſh diſguiſe, wherein an

d monk had cloathed it, and to make as becoming a ew veſt for it, as I could.

The author was a perſon of quality in Italy, his ame Mancini, which family matched ſince with the ſter of Cardinal Mazarine; he was cotemporary to etrarch, and Mantuan, and not long before Torquato aſſo; which ſhews, that the age they lived in, was ot ſo unlearned, as that which preceded, or that which ollowed.

The author writ upon the four Cardinal Virtues; ut I have tranſlated only the two firſt, not to turn the indneſs I intended to him into an injury; for the two aſt are little more than repetitions and recitals of the irſt; and (to make a juſt excuſe for him) they could ot well be otherwiſe, ſince the two laſt Virtues are ut deſcendants from the firſt; Prudence being the rue mother of Temperance, and true Fortitude the hild of Juſtice.

OF

PRUDENCE.

WISDOM's first progress is, to take a view
What's decent or undecent, false or true.
He's truly prudent, who can separate
Honest from vile, and still adhere to that;
Their difference to measure, and to reach,
Reason well rectify'd must nature teach.
And these high scrutinies are subjects fit
For man's all-searching and enquiring wit;
That search of knowledge did from Adam flow;
Who wants it, yet abhors his wants to show.
Wisdom of what herself approves, makes choice,
Nor is led captive by the common voice.
Clear-sighted reason wisdom's judgment leads,
And sense, her vassal, in her footsteps treads.
That thou to truth the perfect way may'st know;
To thee all her specific forms I'll show:
He that the way to honesty will learn,
First what's to be avoided must discern.
Thyself from flatt'ring self-conceit defend,
Nor what thou dost not know, to know pretend.
Some secrets deep in abstruse darkness lie;
To search them, thou wilt need a piercing eye.

Not rashly therefore to such things assent,
Which undeceiv'd, thou after may'st repent;
Study and time in these must thee instruct,
And others old experience may conduct.
Wisdom herself her ear doth often lend
To counsel offer'd by a faithful friend.
In equal scales two doubtful matters lay,
Thou may'st chuse safely that which most doth weigh;
'Tis not secure, this place, or that to guard,
If any other entrance stand unbarr'd;
He that escapes the serpent's teeth, may fail,
If he himself secure not from his tail.
Who saith, who could such ill events expect?
With shame on his own counsels doth reflect.
Most in the world doth self-conceit deceive,
Who just and good, whate'er they act, believe;
To their wills wedded, to their errors slaves,
No man (like them) they think himself behaves.
This stiff-neckt pride, nor art nor force can bend,
Nor high-flown hope's to reason's lure descend.
Fathers sometimes their children's faults regard
With pleasure, and their crimes with gifts reward.
Ill painters, when they draw, and poets write,
Virgil and Titian (self-admiring) slight;
Then all they do, like gold and pearl appears,
And others actions are but dirt to theirs.
They that so highly think themselves above
All other men, themselves can only love;
Reason and virtue, all that man can boast
O'er other creatures, in those brutes are lost.

Obſerve (if thee this fatal error touch,
Thou to thyſelf contributing too much)
Thoſe who are generous, humble, juſt and wiſe,
Who nor their gold, nor themſelves idolize;
To form thyſelf by their example, learn,
(For many eyes can more than one diſcern)
But yet beware of counſels when too full,
Number makes long diſputes and graveneſs dull;
Though their advice be good, their counſel wiſe,
Yet length ſtill loſes opportunities:
Debate deſtroys diſpatch; as fruits we ſee
Rot, when they hang too long upon the tree;
In vain that huſbandman his ſeed doth ſow,
If he his crop not in due ſeaſon mow.
A gen'ral ſets his army in array
In vain, unleſs he fight, and win the day.
'Tis virtuous action that muſt praiſe bring forth,
Without which, ſlow adviſe is little worth.
Yet they who give good counſel, praiſe deſerve,
Though in the active part they cannot ſerve:
In action, learned counſellors their age,
Profeſſion, or diſeaſe, forbids t'ingage.
Nor to philoſophers is praiſe deny'd,
Whoſe wiſe inſtructions after-ages guide;
Yet vainly moſt their age and ſtudy ſpend;
No end of writing books, and to no end:
Beating their brains for ſtrange and hidden things,
Whoſe knowledge, nor delight, nor profit brings;
Themſelves with doubts both day and night perplex,
Nor gentle readers pleaſe, or teach, but vex.

Books ſhould to one of theſe four ends conduce,
For wiſdom, piety, delight, or uſe.
What need we gaze upon the ſpangled ſky?
Or into matter's hidden cauſes pry?
To deſcribe ev'ry city, ſtream, or hill,
I'th'world, our fancy with vain arts to fill?
What is't to hear a ſophiſter, that pleads,
Who by the ears the deceiv'd audience leads?
If we were wiſe, theſe things we ſhould not mind,
But more delight in eaſy matters find.
Learn to live well, that thou may'ſt die ſo too;
To live and die is all we have to do:
The way (if no digreſſion's made) is ev'n,
And free acceſs, if we but aſk, is giv'n.
Then ſeek to know thoſe things which make us bleſt,
And having found them, lock them in thy breaſt;
Enquiring then the way, go on, nor ſlack,
But mend thy pace, nor think of going back.
Some their whole age in theſe enquiries waſte,
And die like fools before one ſtep they paſt;
'Tis ſtrange to know the way, and not t' advance,
That knowledge is far worſe than ignorance.
The learned teach, but what they teach, not do;
And ſtanding ſtill themſelves, make others go.
In vain on ſtudy time away we throw,
When we forbear to act the things we know.
The ſoldier that philoſopher well blam'd,
Who long and loudly in the ſchools declaim'd;
Tell (ſaid the ſoldier) venerable Sir,
Why all theſe words, this clamour, and this ſtir?

Why do diſputes in wrangling ſpend the day?
Whilſt one ſays only yea, and t'other nay.
Oh, ſaid the doctor, we for wiſdom toil'd,
For which none toils too much: the ſoldier ſmil'd;
You're gray and old. and to ſome pious uſe
This maſs of treaſure you ſhould now reduce:
But you your ſtore have hoarded in ſome bank,
For which th' infernal ſpirits ſhall you thank,
Let what thou learneſt be by practice ſhown,
'Tis ſaid that wiſdom's children make her known.
What's good doth open to th' enquirer ſtand,
And itſelf offers to th' accepting hand;
All things by order and true meaſures done,
Wiſdom will end, as well as ſhe begun.
Let early care thy main concern ſecure,
Things of leſs moment may delays endure:
Men do not for their ſervants firſt prepare,
And of their wives and children quit the care;
Yet when we're ſick, the doctor's fetcht in haſte,
Leaving our great concernment to the laſt.
When we are well, our hearts are only ſet
(Which way we care not) to be rich, or great;
What ſhall become of all that we have got;
We only know that us it follows not;
And what a trifle is a moment's breath,
Laid in the ſcale with everlaſting death?
What's time, when on eternity we think?
A thouſand ages in that ſea muſt ſink;
Time's nothing but a word, a million
Is full as far from infinite as one.

To whom thou much doſt owe, thou much muſt pay,
Think on the debt againſt the accompting-day;
God who to thee reaſon and knowledge lent,
Will aſk how theſe two talents have been ſpent.
Let not low pleaſures thy high reaſon blind,
He's mad, that ſeeks what no man e'er could find.
Why ſhould we fondly pleaſe our ſenſe, wherein
Beaſts us exceed, nor feel the ſtings of ſin?
What thoughts man's reaſon better can become,
Than th' expectation of his welcome home?
Lords of the world have but for life their leaſe,
And that too (if the leſſer pleaſe) muſt ceaſe.
Death cancels nature's bonds, but for our deeds
That debt firſt paid) a ſtrict account ſucceeds;
If here not clear'd, no ſuretyſhip can bail
Condemned debtors from th' eternal goal;
Chriſt's blood's our balſam, if that cure us here,
Him, when our judge, we ſhall not find ſevere;
His yoke is eaſy when by us embrac'd,
But loads and galls, if on our necks 'tis caſt.
Be juſt in all thy actions, and if join'd
With thoſe that are not, never change thy mind:
If ought obſtruct thy courſe, yet ſtand not ſtill,
But wind about, till thou have topp'd the hill;
To the ſame end men ſev'ral paths may tread,
As many doors into one temple lead;
And the ſame hand into a fiſt may cloſe,
Which inſtantly a palm expanded ſhows:
Juſtice and faith never forſake the wiſe,
Yet may occaſion put him in diſguiſe;

Not turning like the wind, but if the ſtate
Of things muſt change, he is not obſtinate;
Things paſt, and future, with the preſent weighs,
Nor credulous of what vain rumour ſays.
Few things by wiſdom are at firſt believ'd;
An eaſy ear deceives, and is deceiv'd:
For many truths have often paſt for lies,
And lies as often put on truth's diſguiſe:
As flattery too oft like friendſhip ſhows,
So them who ſpeak plain truth we think our foes.
No quick reply to dubious queſtions make,
Suſpence and caution ſtill prevent miſtake.
When any great deſign thou doſt intend,
Think on the means, the manner, and the end:
All great concernments muſt delays endure;
Raſhneſs and haſte make all things unſecure;
And if uncertain thy pretenſions be,
Stay till fit time wear out uncertainty;
But if to unjuſt things thou doſt pretend,
E'er they begin let thy pretenſions end.
Let thy diſcourſe be ſuch, that thou may'ſt give
Profit to others, or from them receive:
Inſtruct the ignorant; to thoſe that live
Under thy care, good rules and patterns give;
Nor is't the leaſt of virtues, to relieve
Thoſe whom afflictions or oppreſſions grieve.
Commend but ſparingly whom thou doſt love:
But leſs condemn whom thou doſt not approve;
Thy friend, like flattery, too much praiſe doth wrong,
And too ſharp cenſure ſhews an evil tongue:

...t let inviolate truth be always dear
...o thee; even before friendſhip, truth prefer.
...hen what thou mean'ſt to give, ſtill promiſe leſs;
...old faſt the power thy promiſe to increaſe.
...ook forward what's to come and back what's paſt,
...hy life will be with praiſe and prudence grac'd:
...hat loſs or gain may follow, thou may'ſt gueſs,
...hou then wilt be ſecure of the ſucceſs;
...ct be not always on affairs intent,
...ut let thy thoughts be eaſy, and unbent:
...hen our minds eyes are diſengag'd and free,
...hey clearer, farther, and diſtinctly ſee;
...hey quicken ſloth, perplexities unty,
...ake roughneſs ſmooth, and hardneſs mollify;
...nd though our hands from labour are releaſt,
...et our minds find (even when we ſleep) no reſt.
...arch not to find how other men offend,
...ut by that glaſs thy own offences mend;
...ill ſeek to learn, yet care not much from whom,
...o it be learning) or from whence it come.
...f thy own actions, others judgments learn;
...ften by ſmall, great matters we diſcern:
...outh, what man's age is like to be, doth ſhow;
...e may our ends by our beginnings know.
...et none direct thee what to do or ſay,
...ill thee thy judgment of the matter ſway;
...et not the pleaſing many thee delight,
...irſt judge, if thoſe whom thou doſt pleaſe, judge right.
...arch not to find what lies too deeply hid,
...or to know things, whoſe knowledge is forbid;

Nor climb on pyramids, which thy head turn round
Standing, and whence no ſafe deſcent is found:
In vain his nerves and faculties he ſtrains
To raiſe, whoſe riſing unſecure remains:
They whom deſert and favour forwards thruſt,
Are wiſe, when they their meaſures can adjuſt.
When well at eaſe, and happy, live content,
And then conſider why that life was lent;
When wealthy, ſhew thy wiſdom not to be
To wealth a ſervant, but make wealth ſerve thee.
Though all alone, yet nothing think or do,
Which nor a witneſs, nor a judge might know.
The higheſt hill is the moſt ſlipp'ry place,
And fortune mocks us with a ſmiling face;
And her unſteady hand hath often plac'd
Men in high power, but ſeldom holds them faſt;
Againſt her then her forces prudence joins,
And to the golden mean herſelf confines.
More in proſperity is reaſon toſt,
Than ſhips in ſtorms, their helms and anchors loſt;
Before fair gales not all our ſails we bear,
But with ſide winds into ſafe harbours ſteer;
More ſhips in calms on a deceitful coaſt,
Or unſeen rocks, than in high ſtorms are loſt.
Who caſts out threats and frowns, no man deceives,
Time for reſiſtance and defence he gives;
But flatt'ry ſtill in ſugar'd words betrays,
And poiſon in high-taſted meats conveys;
So fortune's ſmiles unguarded man ſurprize,
But when ſhe frowns, he arms, and her defies.

OF
JUSTICE.

TIS the first sanction nature gave to man,
Each other to assist in what they can;
ust or unjust, this law for ever stands,
ll things are good by law which she commands;
he first step, man tow'rds Christ must justly live,
Who t' us himself, and all we have, did give;
n vain doth man the name of just expect,
f his devotions he to God neglect;
o must we reverence God, as first to know
ustice from him, not from ourselves doth flow;
God those accepts who to mankind are friends,
Whose justice far as their own power extends;
n that they imitate the power divine,
The sun alike on good and bad doth shine;
And he that doth no good, although no ill,
Does not the office of the just fulfill.
Virtue doth man to virtuous actions steer,
'Tis not enough that he should vice forbear;
We live not only for ourselves to care,
Whilst they that want it are deny'd their share.
Wise Plato said, the world with men was stor'd,
That succour each to other might afford;
Nor are those succours to one sort confin'd,
But several parts to several men consign'd;

He that of his own ſtores no part can give,
May with his counſel or his hands relieve.
If fortune make thee powerful, give defence
'Gainſt fraud, and force, to naked innocence:
And when our juſtice doth her tributes pay,
Method and order muſt direct the way:
Firſt to our God we muſt with reverence bow,
The ſecond honour to our prince we owe;
Next to wives, parents, children, fit reſpect,
And to our friends and kindred we direct:
Then we muſt thoſe, who groan beneath the weight
Of age, diſeaſe, or want, commiſerate:
'Mongſt thoſe whom honeſt lives can recommend,
Our juſtice more compaſſion ſhould extend;
To ſuch, who thee in ſome diſtreſs did aid,
Thy debt of thanks with int'reſt ſhould be paid:
As Heſiod ſings, ſpread waters o'er thy field,
And a more juſt and glad increaſe 'twill yield.
But yet take heed, leſt doing good to one,
Miſchief and wrong be to another done;
Such moderation with thy bounty join,
That thou may'ſt nothing give that is not thine;
That liberality is but caſt away,
Which makes us borrow what we cannot pay:
And no acceſs to wealth let rapine bring;
Do nothing that's not juſt, to be a king.
Juſtice muſt be from violence exempt,
But fraud's her only object of contempt.
Fraud in the fox, force in the lion dwells;
But juſtice both from human hearts expels;

But he's the greateſt monſter (without doubt)
Who is a wolf within, a ſheep without.
Nor only ill injurious actions are,
But evil words and ſlanders bear their ſhare.
Truth juſtice loves, and truth injuſtice fears,
Truth above all things a juſt man reveres:
Though not by oaths we God to witneſs call,
He ſees and hears, and ſtill remembers all;
And yet our atteſtations we may wreſt,
Sometimes to make the truth more manifeſt;
If by a lye a man preſerve his faith,
He pardon, leave, and abſolution hath;
Or if I break my promiſe, which to thee
Would bring no good, but prejudice to me.
All things committed to thy truſt conceal,
Nor what's forbid by any means reveal.
Expreſs thyſelf in plain, not doubtful words,
That ground for quarrels or diſputes affords:
Unleſs thou find occaſion, hold thy tongue;
Thyſelf or others, careleſs talk may wrong.
When thou art called into public power,
And when a crowd of ſuitors throng thy door,
Be ſure no great offenders 'ſcape their dooms;
Small praiſe from lenity and remiſſneſs comes:
Crimes pardon'd, others to thoſe crimes invite,
Whilſt lookers on, ſevere examples fright:
When by a pardon'd murderer blood is ſpilt,
The judge that pardon'd hath the greateſt guilt;
Who accuſe rigour, make a groſs miſtake,
One criminal pardon'd, may an hundred make;

When juſtice on offenders is not done,
Law, government, commerce, are o'erthrown;
As beſieg'd traitors with the foe conſpire,
T'unlock the gates, and ſet the town on fire.
Yet leſt the puniſhment th'offence exceed,
Juſtice with weight and meaſure muſt proceed:
Yet when pronouncing ſentence, ſeem not glad,
Such ſpectacles, though they are juſt, are ſad;
Though what thou doſt, thou ought'ſt not to repent,
Yet human bowels cannot but relent:
Rather than all muſt ſuffer, ſome muſt die;
Yet nature muſt condole their miſery.
And yet if many equal guilt involve,
Thou may'ſt not theſe condemn, and thoſe abſolve.
Juſtice, when equal ſcales ſhe holds, is blind,
Nor cruelty, nor mercy, change her mind;
When ſome eſcape for that which others die,
Mercy to thoſe, to theſe is cruelty.
A fine and ſlender net the ſpider weaves,
Which little and light animals receives;
And if ſhe catch a common bee or fly,
They with a piteous groan and murmur die;
But if a waſp or hornet ſhe entrap,
They tear her cords like Sampſon, and eſcape;
So like a fly the poor offender dies;
But like the waſp, the rich eſcapes, and flies.
Do not, if one but rightly thee offend,
The puniſhment beyond the crime extend;
Or after warning the offence forget;
So God himſelf our failings doth remit.

Expect not more from ſervants than is juſt,
Reward them well, if they obſerve their truſt;
Nor them with cruelty or pride invade,
Since God and nature them our brothers made;
If his offence be great, let that ſuffice;
If light, forgive, for no man's always wiſe.

THE PREFACE.

MY early miſtreſs, now my ancient muſe,
That ſtrong Circaean liquor ceaſe t'infuſe,
Wherewith thou didſt intoxicate my youth,
Now ſtoop with diſ-inchanted wings to truth;
As the doves flight did guide Æneas, now
May thine conduct me to the golden bough;
Tell (like a tall old oak) how learning ſhoots
To heav'n her branches, and to hell her roots.

THE PROGRESS OF LEARNING.

WHEN God from earth form'd Adam in the eaſt,
He his own image on the clay impreſt;
As ſubjects then the whole creation came,
And from their natures Adam them did name,
Not from experience, (for the world was new)
He only from their cauſe their natures knew.
Had memory been loſt with innocence,
We had not known the ſentence nor th' offence;
'Twas his chief puniſhment to keep in ſtore
The ſad remembrance what he was before;
And though th' offending part felt mortal pain,
Th' immortal part its knowledge did retain.
After the flood, arts to Chaldaea fell,
The father of the faithful there did dwell,
Who both their parent and inſtructer was;
From thence did learning into Ægypt paſs:
Moſes in all th' Ægyptian arts was ſkill'd,
When heav'nly pow'r that choſen veſſel fill'd;
And we to his high inſpiration owe,
That what was done before the flood, we know.

From Ægypt, arts their progreſs made to Greece,
Wrapt in the fable of the golden fleece.
Muſæus firſt, then Orpheus civilize
Mankind, and gave the world their deities;
To many gods they taught devotion,
Which were the diſtinct faculties of one;
Th' Eternal Cauſe, in their immortal lines
Was taught, and poets were the firſt divines:
God Moſes firſt, then David did inſpire,
To compoſe anthems for his heav'nly quire;
To th' one the ſtyle of friend he did impart,
On th' other ſtampt the likeneſs of his heart:
And Moſes, in the old original,
Ev'n God the poet of the world doth call.
Next thoſe old Greeks, Pythagoras did riſe,
Then Socrates, whom th' oracle call'd wiſe;
The divine Plato moral virtue ſhows,
Then his diſciple Ariſtotle roſe,
Who nature's ſecrets to the world did teach,
Yet that great ſoul our noveliſts impeach;
Too much manuring fill'd that field with weeds,
While ſects, like locuſts, did deſtroy the ſeeds;
The tree of knowledge blaſted by diſputes,
Produces ſapleſs leaves inſtead of fruits;
Proud Greece, all nations elſe barbarians held,
Boaſting her learning all the world excell'd.
Flying from thence, * to Italy it came,
And to the realm of Naples gave the name,

* Græcia Major.

Till both their nation and their arts did come
A welcome trophy to triumphant Rome;
Then whereſoe'er her conqu'ring eagles fled,
Arts, learning, and civility were ſpread;
And as in this our Microcoſm the heart
Heat, ſpirit, motion gives to ev'ry part;
So Rome's victorious influence did diſperſe
All her own virtues through the univerſe.
Here ſome digreſſion I muſt make, t'accuſe
Thee my forgetful, and ungrateful muſe:
Couldſt thou from Greece to Latium take thy flight,
And not to thy great anceſtor do right?
I can no more believe old Homer blind,
Than thoſe, who ſay the ſun hath never ſhin'd;
The age wherein he liv'd was dark, but he
Could not want ſight, who taught the world to ſee:
They who Minerva from Jove's head derive,
Might make old Homer's ſcull the muſes hive;
And from his brain, that Helicon diſtill,
Whoſe racy liquor did his off-ſpring fill.
Nor old Anacreon, Heſiod, Theocrite
Muſt we forget, nor Pindar's lofty flight.
Old Homer's ſoul at laſt from Greece retir'd;
In Italy the Mantuan ſwain inſpir'd.
When great Auguſtus made war's tempeſts ceaſe,
His halcyon days brought forth the arts of peace;
He ſtill in his triumphant chariot ſhines,
By Horace drawn, and Virgil's mighty lines.
'Twas certainly myſterious * that the name
Of prophets and of poets is the ſame;

* Vates.

What the Tragedian wrote, † the late ſucceſs
Declares was inſpiration, and not gueſs:
As dark a truth that author did unfold,
As oracles, or prophets ere fore-told:
'At laſt the ocean ſhall unlock ‡ the bound
'Of things, and a new world by Tiphys found,
'Then ages far remote ſhall underſtand
'The iſle of Thule is not the fartheſt land.'
Sure God, by theſe diſcov'ries, did deſign
That his clear light through all the world ſhould ſhine,
But the obſtruction from that diſcord ſprings
The prince of darkneſs makes 'twixt Chriſtian kings;
That peaceful age, with happineſs to crown,
From heav'n the Prince of Peace himſelf came down.
Then the true Sun of Knowledge firſt appear'd,
And the old dark myſterious clouds were clear'd,
The heavy cauſe of th' old accurſed flood
Sunk in the ſacred deluge of his blood.
His paſſion, man from his firſt fall redeem'd;
Once more to paradiſe reſtor'd we ſeem'd;
Satan himſelf was bound, till th' iron chain
Our pride did break, and let him looſe again.
Still the old ſting remain'd, and man began
To tempt the ſerpent, as he tempted man;
Then hell ſends forth her furies, Avarice, Pride,
Fraud, Diſcord, Force, Hypocriſy their guide;
Though the foundation on a rock were laid,
The church was undermin'd, and then betray'd;

† Seneca. ‡ The prophecy.

Though the apoſtles theſe events foretold,
Yet even the ſhepherd did devour the fold:
The fiſher to convert the world began,
The pride convincing of vain-glorious man;
But ſoon his follower grew a ſov'reign lord,
And Peter's keys exchang'd for Peter's ſword,
Which ſtill maintains for his adopted ſon
Vaſt patrimonies, though himſelf had none;
Wreſting the text to the old giant's ſenſe,
That heav'n, once more, muſt ſuffer violence.
Then ſubtle doctors, ſcriptures made their prize,
Caſuiſts, like cocks, ſtruck out each others eyes;
Then dark diſtinctions reaſon's light diſguis'd,
And into atoms truth anatomiz'd.
Then Mahomet's creſcent by our feuds increaſt,
Blaſted the learn'd remainders of the eaſt:
That project, when from Greece to Rome it came,
Made mother Ignorance Devotion's dame;
Then, he whom Lucifer's own pride did ſwell,
His faithful emiſſary, roſe from hell
To poſſeſs Peter's chair, that Hildebrand
Whoſe foot on mitres, then on crowns did ſtand,
And before that exalted idol, all
(Whom we call gods on earth) did proſtrate fall.
Then darkneſs Europe's face did overſpread,
From lazy cells, where Superſtition bred,
Which link'd with blind obedience, ſo increaſt,
That the whole world, ſome ages, they oppreſt;
Till through thoſe clouds the ſun of knowledge brake,
And Europe from her lethargy did wake:

Then, firſt our monarchs were acknowledg'd here,
That they their churches nurſing fathers were.
When Lucifer no longer could advance
His works on the falſe grounds of ignorance,
New arts he tries, and new deſigns he lays,
Then his well-ſtudied maſter piece he plays;
Loyola, Luther, Calvin, he inſpires,
And kindles, with infernal flames, their fires,
Sends their fore-runner, (conſcious of th' event)
Printing, his moſt pernicious inſtrument:
Wild controverſy then, which long had ſlept,
Into the preſs from ruin'd cloiſters leapt;
No longer by implicit faith we err,
Whilſt ev'ry man's his own interpreter;
No more conducted now by Aaron's rod,
Lay-elders, from their ends, create their God.
But ſeven wiſe men the ancient world did know,
We ſcarce know ſeven, who think themſelves not ſo.
When man learn'd undefil'd religion,
We were commanded to be all as one;
Fiery diſputes that union have calcin'd,
Almoſt as many minds as men we find,
And when that flame finds combuſtible earth,
Thence fatuous fires, and meteors take their birth,
Legions of ſects, and inſects come in throngs;
To name them all would tire a hundred tongues.
So were the Centaurs of Ixion's race,
Who a bright cloud for Juno did embrace;
And ſuch the monſters of Chimaera's kind,
Lions before, and dragons were behind.

Then from the clashes between popes and kings,
Debate, like sparks from flints collision, springs:
As Jove's loud thunder-bolts were forg'd by heat,
The like, our Cyclops on their anvils beat;
All the rich mines of learning ransack'd are,
To furnish ammunition for this war:
Uncharitable zeal our reason whets,
And double edges on our passion sets;
'Tis the most certain sign, the world's accurst,
That the best things corrupted, are the worst;
'Twas the corrupted light of knowledge, hurl'd
Sin, death, and ignorance o'er all the world;
That sun like this, (from which our sight we have)
Gaz'd on too long, resumes the light he gave;
And when thick mists of doubts obscure his beams,
Our guide is error, and our visions, dreams;
'Twas no false heraldry, when madness drew
Her pedigree from those, who too much knew;
Who in deep mines, for hidden knowledge toils,
Like guns o'er-charg'd, breaks, misses, or recoils;
When subtle wits have spun their thread too fine,
'Tis weak and fragile like Arachne's line:
True piety, without cessation tost
By theories, the practic part is lost,
And like a ball bandy'd 'twixt pride and wit,
Rather than yield, both sides the prize will quit:
Then whilst his foe each gladiator foils,
The atheist looking on, enjoys the spoils.
Through seas of knowledge we our course advance,
Discov'ring still new worlds of ignorance;

And theſe diſcov'ries make us all confeſs
That ſublunary ſcience is but gueſs,
Matters of fact to man are only known,
And what ſeems more, is mere opinion;
The ſtanders-by ſee clearly this event,
All parties ſay they're ſure, yet all diſſent;
With their new light our bold inſpectors preſs
Like Cham, to ſhew their father's nakedneſs,
By whoſe example, after-ages may
Diſcover, we more naked are than they;
All human wiſdom to divine, is folly;
This truth, the wiſeſt man made melancholy;
Hope, or belief, or gueſs, gives ſome relief,
But to be ſure we are deceiv'd, brings grief:
Who thinks his wife is virtuous, though not ſo,
Is pleas'd, and patient, till the truth he know.
Our God, when heav'n and earth he did create,
Form'd man, who ſhould of both participate;
If our lives motions theirs muſt imitate,
Our knowledge, like our blood, muſt circulate.
When, like a bride-groom, from the eaſt, the ſun
Sets forth, he thither, whence he came, doth run;
Into earth's ſpungy veins the ocean ſinks,
Thoſe rivers to repleniſh which he drinks;
So learning which from reaſon's fountain ſprings,
Back to the ſource, ſome ſecret channel brings.
'Tis happy when our ſtreams of knowledge flow
To fill their banks, but not to overthrow.

" Ut metat autumnus fruges quas parturit aeſtas,
" Sic ortum natura, dedit Deus his quoque finem

CATO MAJOR

OF

OLD AGE.

A

POEM.

TO THE

READER.

I Can neither call this piece Tully's nor my own, being much altered from the original, not only by the change of the ſtile, but by addition and ſubtraction. I believe you will be better pleaſed to receive it, as I did, at the firſt ſight; for to me Cicero did not ſo much appear to write, as Cato to ſpeak; and to do right to my author, I believe no character of any perſon was ever better drawn to the life than this. Therefore neither conſider Cicero, nor me, but Cato himſelf, who being then raiſed from the dead to ſpeak the language of that age and place, neither the diſtance of place or time makes it leſs poſſible to raiſe him now to ſpeak ours.

Though I dare not compare my copy with the original, yet you will find it mentioned here, how much fruits are improved by graffing; and here, by graffing verſe upon proſe, ſome of theſe ſeverer arguments may receive a more mild and pleaſant taſte.

Cato ſays (in another place) of himſelf, that he learned to ſpeak Greek between the ſeventieth and eightieth year of his age; beginning that ſo late, he may not yet be too old to learn Engliſh, being now but between his ſeventeenth and eighteenth hundred year. For theſe reaſons I ſhall leave to this piece no other name than what the author gave it, of

CATO MAJOR.

THE PREFACE.

THAT learned critic, the younger Scaliger, comparing the two great orators, ſays, that nothing can be taken from Demoſthenes, nor added to Tully; and if there be any fault in the laſt, it is the reſumption, or dwelling too long upon his arguments: for which reaſon having intended to tranſlate this piece into proſe, (where tranſlation ought to be ſtrict) finding the matter very proper for verſe, I took the liberty to leave out what was only neceſſary to that age, and place, and to take, or add, what was proper to this preſent age, and occaſion; by laying his ſenſe cloſer, and in fewer words, according to the ſtyle and ear of theſe times. The three firſt parts I dedicate to my old friends, to take off thoſe melancholy reflections, which the ſenſe of age, infirmity, and death may give them. The laſt part I think neceſſary for the conviction of thoſe many, who believe not, or at leaſt mind not the immortality of the ſoul, of which the ſcripture ſpeaks only poſitively, as a law-giver, with an *ipſe dixit;* but it may be, they neither believe that (from which they either make doubts, or ſport,) nor thoſe, whoſe buſineſs it is to interpret it, ſuppoſing they do it only for their own ends: but if a heathen philoſopher bring ſuch arguments from reaſon, nature and ſecond cauſes, which none of our atheiſtical ſophiſters can confute, if they may ſtand convinced, that there is an immortality of the ſoul, I hope they will ſo weigh the conſequences, as neither to talk, nor live, as if there was no ſuch thing.

OF

OLD AGE.

CATO, SCIPIO, LAELIUS.

SCIPIO to CATO.

THough all the actions of your life are crown'd
With wiſdom, nothing makes them more renown'd,
Than that thoſe years, which others think extreme,
Not to yourſelf, nor us, uneaſy ſeem;
Under which weight, moſt like th' old giants groan,
When Ætna on their backs by Jove was thrown.

C. What you urge, Scipio, from right reaſon flows;
All parts of age ſeem burthenſome to thoſe,
Who virtue's and true wiſdom's happineſs
Cannot diſcern; but they who thoſe poſſeſs,
In what's impos'd by nature find no grief,
Of which our age is (next our death) the chief,
Which though all equally deſire t' obtain,
Yet when they have obtain'd it, they complain;
Such our inconſtancies and follies are,
We ſay it ſteals upon us unaware:
Our want of reas'ning theſe falſe meaſures makes,
Youth runs to age, as childhood youth o'ertakes.

How much more grievous would our lives appear,
To reach th' eighth hundred, than the eightieth year!
Of what, in that long ſpace of time hath paſt,
To fooliſh age will no remembrance laſt.
My age's conduct when you ſeem t'admire,
(Which that it may deſerve, I much deſire)
'Tis my firſt rule, on nature, as my guide
Appointed by the gods, I have rely'd;
And nature, (which all acts of life deſigns)
Not like ill poets, in the laſt declines:
But ſome one part muſt be the laſt of all,
Which like ripe fruits, muſt either rot, or fall.
And this from nature muſt be gently born,
Elſe her (as giants did the gods) we ſcorn.

L. But ſir, 'tis Scipio's, and my deſire,
Since to long life we gladly would aſpire,
That from your grave inſtructions we might hear,
How we, like you, may this great burthen bear.

C. This I reſolv'd before, but now ſhall do
With great delight, ſince 'tis requir'd by you.

L. If to yourſelf it will not tedious prove,
Nothing in us a greater joy can move,
That as old travellers the young inſtruct;
Your long, our ſhort experience may conduct.

C. 'Tis true, (as the old proverb doth relate)
Equals with equals often congregate.
Two Conſuls (who * in years my equals were)
When Senators, lamenting I did hear,

* Cajus Salinator, Spurius Albinus.

That age from them had all their pleaſures torn,
And them their former ſuppliants now ſcorn:
They, what is not to be accus'd, accuſe,
Not others, but themſelves their age abuſe;
Elſe this might me concern, and all my friends,
Whoſe chearful age, with honour, youth attends,
Joy'd that from pleaſure's ſlav'ry they are free,
And all reſpects due to their age they ſee.
In its true colours, this complaint appears
The ill effect of manners, not of years;
For on their life no grievous burthen lies,
Who are well-natur'd, temperate, and wiſe:
But an inhuman, and ill-temper'd mind,
Not any eaſy part in life can find.

L. This I believe; yet others may diſpute,
Their age (as yours) can never bear ſuch fruit
Of honour, wealth, and pow'r, to make them ſweet,
Not every one ſuch happineſs can meet.

C. Some weight your argument, my Laelius, bears;
But not ſo much, as at firſt ſight appears.
This anſwer by Themiſtocles was made,
(When a Seriphian thus did him upbraid,
You thoſe great honours to your country owe,
Not to yourſelf) had I at * Seripho
Been born, ſuch honour I had never ſeen,
Nor you, if an Athenian you had been:
So age, cloath'd in undecent poverty,
To the moſt prudent cannot eaſy be;

* An iſle to which condemned men were baniſhed.

But to a fool, the greater his eſtate,
The more uneaſy is his age's weight.
Age's chief arts, and arms, are to grow wiſe,
Virtue to know, and known, to exerciſe;
All juſt returns to age then virtue makes,
Nor her in her extremity forſakes;
The ſweeteſt cordial we receive at laſt,
Is conſcience of our virtuous actions paſt.
I (when a youth) with reverence did look
On Quintus Fabius, who Tarentum took;
Yet in his age ſuch chearfulneſs was ſeen,
As if his years and mine had equal been;
His gravity was mixt with gentleneſs,
Nor had his age made his good humour leſs;
Then was he well in years (the ſame that he
Was Conſul, that of my nativity)
(A ſtripling then) in his fourth conſulate
On him at Capua I in arms did wait.
I five years after at Tarentum wan
The Queſtorſhip, and then our love began;
And four years after, when I Praetor was,
He pleaded, and the * Cincian law did paſs.
With youthful diligence he us'd t'ingage,
Yet with the temperate arts of patient age
He breaks fierce Hannibal's inſulting heats;
Of which exploit thus our friend Ennius treats,
He by delay reſtor'd the common-wealth,
Nor preferr'd rumour before public health.

* Againſt bribes.

THE ARGUMENT.

When I reflect on age, I find there are
Four cauſes, which its miſery declare.
1. Becauſe our body's ſtrength it much impairs;
2. That it takes off our minds from great affairs:
3. Next, that our ſenſe of pleaſures it deprives:
4. Laſt, that approaching death attends our lives.
Of all theſe ſev'ral cauſes I'll diſcourſe,
And then of each, in order, weigh the force.

THE FIRST PART.

THE old from ſuch affairs is only freed,
Which vigorous youth, and ſtrength of body need;
But to more high affairs our age is lent,
Moſt properly when heats of youth are ſpent.
Did Fabius, and your father Scipio
(Whoſe daughter my ſon married) nothing do?
Fabricii, Coruncani, Curii;
Whoſe courage, counſel, and authority,
The Roman common-wealth reſtor'd, did boaſt,
Nor Appius, with whoſe ſtrength his ſight was loſt,
Who when the ſenate was to peace inclin'd
With Pyrrhus, ſhew'd his reaſon was not blind.

Whither's our courage and our wiſdom come?
When Rome itſelf conſpires the fate of Rome.
The reſt with ancient gravity and ſkill
He ſpake (for his oration's extant ſtill.)
'Tis ſeventeen years ſince he had conſul been
The ſecond time, and there were ten between;
Therefore their argument's of little force,
Who age from great employments would divorce.
As in a ſhip ſome climb the ſhrouds, t' unfold
The ſail, ſome ſweep the deck, ſome pump the hold;
Whilſt he that guides the helm, employs his ſkill,
And gives the law to them, by ſitting ſtill.
Great actions leſs from courage, ſtrength and ſpeed,
Than from wiſe counſels and commands proceed;
Thoſe arts age wants not, which to age belong,
Not heat, but cold experience makes us ſtrong.
A conſul, tribune, general, I have been,
All ſorts of war I have paſt through, and ſeen;
And now grown old, I ſeem t' abandon it,
Yet to the ſenate I preſcribe what's fit.
I ev'ry day 'gainſt Carthage war proclaim,
(For Rome's deſtruction hath been long her aim)
Nor ſhall I ceaſe till I her ruin ſee,
Which triumph may the gods deſign for thee;
That Scipio may revenge his grandſire's ghoſt,
Whoſe life at Cannæ with great honour loſt
Is on record, nor had he wearied been
With age, if he an hundred years had ſeen,
He had not us'd excurſions, ſpears, or darts,
But counſel, order, and ſuch aged arts,

Which, if our anceſtors had not retain'd,
The ſenate's name our council had not gain'd.
The Spartans to their higheſt magiſtrate
The name of elder did appropriate:
Therefore his fame for ever ſhall remain,
How gallantly Tarentum he did gain,
With vigilant conduct, when that ſharp reply
He gave to Salinator, I ſtood by,
Who to the caſtle fled, the town being loſt,
Yet he to Maximus did vainly boaſt,
'Twas by my means Tarentum you obtain'd;
'Tis true, had you not loſt, I had not gain'd.
And as much honour on his gown did wait,
As on his arms, in his fifth conſulate,
When his collegue Carvilius ſtept aſide,
The tribune of the people would divide
To them the Gallic, and the Picene field,
Againſt the ſenate's will, he will not yield;
When, being angry, boldly he declares
Thoſe things were acted under happy ſtars,
From which the common-wealth found good effects,
But otherwiſe they came from bad aſpects.
Many great things of Fabius I could tell,
But his ſon's death did all the reſt excel;
(His gallant ſon, tho' young, had conſul been)
His funeral oration I have ſeen
Often, and when on that I turn my eyes,
I all the old philoſophers deſpiſe.
Though he in all the people's eyes ſeem'd great,
Yet greater he appear'd in his retreat;

When feaſting with his private friends at home,
Such counſel, ſuch diſcourſe from him did come,
Such ſcience in his art of augury,
No Roman ever was more learn'd than he;
Knowledge of all things preſent, and to come,
Remembring all the wars of ancient Rome,
Nor only there, but all the world's beſide;
Dying in extreme age, I propheſy'd
That which is to come to paſs, and did diſcern
From his ſurvivors I could nothing learn.
This long diſcourſe was but to let you ſee,
That his long life could not uneaſy be.
Few like the Fabii or the Scipio's are
Takers of cities, conquerors in war.
Yet others to like happy age arrive,
Who modeſt, quiet, and with virtue live:
Thus Plato writing his philoſophy,
With honour after ninety years did die.
Th' Athenian ſtory writ at ninety-four
By Iſocrates, who yet liv'd five years more;
His maſter Gorgias at the hundredth year
And ſeventh, not his ſtudies did forbear:
And, aſkt, why he no ſooner left the ſtage,
Said, he ſaw nothing to accuſe old age.
None but the fooliſh, who their lives abuſe,
Age, of their own miſtakes and crimes, accuſe.
All common-wealths (as by record is ſeen)
As by age preſerv'd, by youth deſtroy'd have been.
When the tragedian Naevius did demand,
Why did your common-wealth no longer ſtand?

'Twas anſwer'd, that their ſenators were new,
Fooliſh, and young. and ſuch as nothing knew;
Nature to youth hot raſhneſs doth diſpence,
But with cold prudence age doth recompence;
But age, 'tis ſaid, will memory decay,
So (if it be not exercis'd) it may:
Or, if by nature it be dull and ſlow:
Themiſtocles (when aged) the names did know
Of all th' Athenians; and none grew ſo old,
Not to remember where they hid their gold.
From age ſuch art of memory we learn,
To forget nothing, which is our concern;
Their intereſt no prieſt nor ſorcerer
Forgets, nor lawyer, nor philoſopher;
No underſtanding memory can want,
Where wiſdom ſtudious induſtry doth plant.
Nor does it only in the active live,
But in the quiet and contemplative;
When Sophocles (who plays when aged wrote)
Was by his ſons before the judges brought,
Becauſe he pay'd the muſes ſuch reſpect,
His fortune, wife, and children to neglect;
Almoſt condemn'd, he mov'd the judges thus,
Hear, but inſtead of me, my Oedipus:
The judges hearing with applauſe, at th' end
Freed him, and ſaid, no fool ſuch lines had penn'd.
What poets and what orators can I
Recount? what princes in philoſophy?
Whoſe conſtant ſtudies with their age did ſtrive,
Nor did they thoſe, though thoſe did them ſurvive.

Old husbandmen I at Sabinum know,
Who for another year dig plough, and sow.
For never any man was yet so old,
But hop'd his life one winter more might hold.
Caecilius vainly said, each day we spend
Discovers something, which must needs offend;
But sometimes age may pleasant things behold,
And nothing that offends: he should have told
This not to age, but youth, who oftener see
What not alone offends, but hurts, than we:
That, I in him, which he in age condemn'd,
That thus it renders odious, and contemn'd.
He knew not virtue, if he thought this truth;
For youth delights in age, and age in youth.
What to the old can greater pleasure be,
Than hopeful and ingenious youth to see?
When they with rev'rence follow where we lead,
And in straight paths by our directions tread;
And even my conversation here I see,
As well receiv'd by you, as yours by me.
'Tis dis ingenuous to accuse our age
Of idleness, who all our powers ingage
In the same studies, the same course to hold;
Nor think our reason for new arts too old.
Solon the sage his progress never ceas'd,
But still his learning with his days increas'd:
And I with the same greediness did seek,
As water when I thirst, to swallow Greek;
Which I did only learn, that I might know
Those great examples, which I follow now:

And I have heard that Socrates, the wiſe,
Learn'd on the lute, for his laſt exercise.
Though many of the ancients did the ſame,
To improve knowledge was my only aim.

THE

SECOND PART.

NOW int' our ſecond grievance I muſt break,
'That loſs of ſtrength makes underſtanding weak.'
I grieve no more my youthful ſtrength to want,
Than young, that of a bull or elephant;
Then with that force content, which nature gave,
Nor am I now diſpleas'd with what I have.
When the young wreſtlers at their ſport grew warm,
Old Milo wept, to ſee his naked arm;
And cry'd, 'twas dead: trifler, thine heart, and head,
And all that's in them (not thy arm) are dead;
This folly ev'ry looker-on derides,
To glory only in thy arms and ſides.
Our gallant anceſtors let fall no tears,
Their ſtrength decreaſing by increaſing years;
But they advanc'd in wiſdom ev'ry hour,
And made the common-wealth advance in pow'r.
But orators may grieve, for in their ſides,
Rather than heads, their faculty abides;
Yet I have heard old voices loud and clear,
And ſtill my own ſometimes the Senate hear.

When th' old with ſmooth and gentle voices plead,
They by the ear their well pleas'd audience lead:
Which, if I had not ſtrength enough to do,
I could (my Laelius, and my Scipio)
What's to be done, or not be done, inſtruct,
And to the maxims of good life conduct.
Cneius, and Publius Scipio, and (that man
Of men) your grandſire the great African,
Were joyful, when the flower of noble blood
Crowded their dwellings, and attending ſtood,
Like oracles their counſels to receive,
How in their progreſs they ſhould act, and live.
And they whoſe high examples youth obeys,
Are not deſpiſed, though their ſtrength decays,
And thoſe decays (to ſpeak the naked truth,
Though the defects of age) were crimes of youth,
Intemp'rate youth, (by ſad experience found)
Ends in age imperfect, and unſound.
Cyrus, though aged, (if Xenophon ſay true)
Lucius Metellus (whom when young I knew)
Who held (after his ſecond conſulate)
Twenty-two years the high pontificate;
Neither of theſe in body or in mind,
Before their death the leaſt decay did find.
I ſpeak not of myſelf, though none deny
To age, to praiſe their youth, the liberty:
Such an unwaſted ſtrength I cannot boaſt,
Yet now my years are eighty-four almoſt:
And though from what it was my ſtrength is far,
Both in the firſt and ſecond Punic war,

Nor at Thermopylae, under Glabrio,
Nor when I conſul into Spain did go;
But yet I feel no weakneſs, nor hath length
Of winters quite enervated my ſtrength;
And I, my gueſt, my client, or my friend,
Still in the courts of juſtice can defend:
Neither muſt I that proverb's truth allow.
Who would be ancient, muſt be early ſo.
I would be youthful ſtill, and find no need
To appear old, till I was ſo indeed.
And yet you ſee my hours not idle are,
Though with your ſtrength I cannot mine compare;
Yet this centurion's doth yours furmount,
Not therefore him the better man I count.
Milo when entring the Olympic game,
With a huge ox upon his ſhoulder came.
Would you the force of Milo's body find,
Rather than of Pythagoras's mind?
The force which nature gives with care retain,
But when decay'd, 'tis folly to complain;
In age to wiſh for youth is full as vain,
As for a youth to turn a child again.
Simple and certain nature's ways appear,
As ſhe ſets forth the ſeaſons of the year.
So in all parts of life we find her truth,
Weakneſs to childhood, raſhneſs to our youth;
To elder years to be diſcreet and grave,
Then to old age maturity ſhe gave.
Scipio), you know, how Maſſiniſſa bears
His kingly port, at more than ninety years;

When marching with his foot, he walks till night;
When with his horſe, he never will alight;
Though cold, or wet, his head is always bare;
So hot, ſo dry, his aged members are.
You ſee how exerciſe and temperance
Even to old years a youthful ſtrength advance.
Our law (becauſe from age our ſtrength retires)
No duty which belongs to ſtrength requires.
But age doth many men ſo feeble make,
That they no great deſign can undertake;
Yet, that to age not ſingly is apply'd,
But to all man's infirmities beſide.
That Scipio, who adopted you did fall
Into ſuch pains, he had no health at all;
Who elſe had equall'd Africanus' parts,
Exceeding him in all the lib'ral arts:
Why ſhould thoſe errors then imputed be
To age alone, from which our youth's not free?
Ev'ry diſeaſe of age we may prevent,
Like thoſe of youth, by being diligent.
When ſick ſuch mod'rate exerciſe we uſe,
And diet, as our vital heat renews;
And if our body thence refreſhment finds,
Then muſt we alſo exerciſe our minds.
If with continual oil we not ſupply
Our lamp, the light for want of it will die:
Though bodies may be tir'd with exerciſe,
No wearineſs the mind could e'er ſurprize.
Caecilius the comedian, when of age
He repreſents the follies on the ſtage;

They're credulous, forgetful, diſſolute,
Neither thoſe crimes to age he doth impute,
But to old men to whom thoſe crimes belong.
Luſt, petulance, raſhneſs, are in youth more ſtrong
Than age, and yet young men thoſe vices hate,
Who virtuous are, diſcreet, and temperate:
And ſo what we call dotage, ſeldom breeds
In bodies, but where nature ſow'd the ſeeds.
There are five daughters, and four gallant ſons
In whom the blood of noble Appius runs,
With a moſt num'rous family beſide;
Whom he alone, though old and blind, did guide.
Yet his clear-ſighted mind was ſtill intent,
And to his buſineſs like a bow ſtood bent:
By children, ſervants, neighbours ſo eſteem'd,
He not a maſter, but a monarch ſeem'd,
All his relations his admirers were,
His ſons paid reverence, and his ſervants fear:
The order and the ancient diſcipline
Of Romans, did in all his actions ſhine.
Authority kept up old age ſecures,
Whoſe dignity as long as life endures.
Something of youth I in old age approve,
But more the marks of age in youth I love,
Who this obſerves, may in his body find
Decrepit age, but never in his mind.
The ſeven volumes of my own reports,
Wherein are all the pleadings of our courts;
All noble monuments of Greece are come
Unto my hands, with thoſe of ancient Rome,

The pontificial, and the civil law,
I ſtudy ſtill, and thence orations draw.
And to confirm my memory, at night,
What I hear, ſee, do, by day, I ſtill recite.
Theſe exerciſes for my thoughts I find,
Theſe labours are the chariots of my mind.
To ſerve my friends, the ſenate I frequent,
And there what I before digeſted, vent.
Which only from my ſtrength of mind proceeds,
Not any outward force of body needs:
Which, if I could not do, I ſhould delight
On what I would to ruminate at night.
Who in ſuch practices their minds engage,
Nor fear, nor think of their approaching age;
Which by degrees inviſibly doth creep:
Nor do we ſeem to die, but fall aſleep.

THE

THIRD PART.

NOW muſt I draw my forces 'gainſt that hoſt
Of pleaſures, which i' th' ſea of age are loſt.
Oh, thou moſt high tranſcendent gift of age!
Youth from its folly thus to diſengage.
And now receive from me that moſt divine
Oration of that noble * Tarentine,

* Archytas much praiſed by Horace.

Which at Tarentum I long ſince did hear;
When I attended the great Fabius there.
Ye Gods, was it man's nature, or his fate,
Betray'd him with ſweet pleaſure's poiſon'd bait?
Which he, with all deſigns of art, or pow'r,
Doth with unbridled appetite devour:
And as all poiſons ſeek the nobleſt part,
Pleaſure poſſeſſes firſt the head and heart;
Intoxicating both, by them, ſhe finds,
And burns the ſacred temples of our minds.
Furies, which reaſon's divine chains had bound,
(That being broken) all the world confound.
Luſt, Murder, Treaſon, Avarice, and Hell
Itſelf broke looſe, in Reaſon's palace dwell;
Truth, Honour, Juſtice, Temperance, are fled,
All her attendants into darkneſs led.
But why all this diſcourſe? when pleaſure's rage
Hath conquer'd reaſon, we muſt treat with age.
Age undermines, and will in time ſurpriſe
Her ſtrongeſt forts, and cut off all ſupplies;
And join'd in league with ſtrong neceſſity,
Pleaſure muſt fly, or elſe by famine die.
Flaminius, whom a conſulſhip had grac'd,
(Then cenſor) from the ſenate I diſplac'd;
When he in Gaul, a conſul, made a feaſt,
A beauteous curteſan did him requeſt
To ſee the cutting off a pris'ner's head;
This crime I could not leave unpuniſhed,
Since by a private villany he ſtain'd
That public honour, which at Rome he gain'd.

Then to our age (when not to pleaſures bent)
This ſeems an honour, not diſparagement.
We, not all pleaſures like the Stoics hate;
But love and ſeek thoſe which are moderate,
(Though divine Plato thus of pleaſures thought,
They us, with hooks and baits, like fiſhes caught)
When queſtor, to the gods, in public halls
I was the firſt, who ſet up feſtivals.
Not with high taſtes our appetites did force,
But fill'd with converſation and diſcourſe;
Which feaſts, convivial meetings we did name:
Not like the antient Greeks, who to their ſhame,
Call'd it a compotation, not a feaſt;
Declaring the worſt part of it the beſt.
Thoſe entertainments I did then frequent
Sometimes with youthful heat and merriment:
But now I thank my age, which gives me eaſe
From thoſe exceſſes; yet myſelf I pleaſe
With chearful talk to entertain my gueſts,
(Diſcourſes are to age continual feaſts)
The love of meat and wine they recompence,
And chear the mind, as much as thoſe the ſenſe.
I'm not more pleas'd with gravity among
The ag'd, than to be youthful with the young;
Nor 'gainſt all pleaſures proclaim open war,
To which, in age, ſome nat'ral motions are.
And ſtill at my Sabinum I delight
To treat my neighbours till the depth of night.
But we the ſenſe and guſt of pleaſure want,
Which youth at full poſſeſſes, this I grant;

But age ſeeks not the things which youth requires,
And no man needs that, which he not deſires.
When Sophocles was aſk'd, if he deny'd,
Himſelf the uſe of pleaſures, he reply'd,
I humbly thank th' immortal gods, who me
From that fierce tyrant's inſolence ſet free.
But they whom preſſing appetites conſtrain,
Grieve when they cannot their deſires obtain.
Young men the uſe of pleaſure underſtand,
As of an object new, and near at hand:
Though this ſtands more remote from age's ſight,
Yet they behold it not without delight:
As ancient ſoldiers, from their duties eas'd,
With ſenſe of honour and rewards are pleas'd;
So from ambitious hopes and luſts releaſt,
Delighted with itſelf, our age doth reſt.
No part of life's more happy, when with bread
Of ancient knowledge, and new learning fed,
All youthful pleaſures by degrees muſt ceaſe;
But thoſe of age, even with our years increaſe.
We love not loaded boards, and goblets crown'd,
But free from ſurfeits our repoſe is ſound.
When old Fabricius to the Samnites went
Ambaſſador, from Rome to Pyrrhus ſent,
He heard a grave philoſopher maintain,
That all the actions of our life were vain,
Which with our ſenſe of pleaſure not conſpir'd;
Fabricius the philoſopher deſir'd,
That he to Pyrrhus would that maxim teach,
And to the Samnites the ſame doctrine preach;

Then of their conqueſt he ſhould doubt no more,
Whom their own pleaſures overcame before,
Now into ruſtic matters I muſt fall,
Which pleaſure ſeems to me the chief of all.
Age no impediment to thoſe can give,
Who wiſely by the rules of nature live.
Earth (though our mother) chearfully obeys
All the commands her race upon her lays.
For whatſoever from our hand ſhe takes,
Greater, or leſs, a vaſt return ſhe makes.
Nor am I only pleas'd with that reſource,
But with her ways, her method, and her force.
The ſeed her boſom (by the plough made fit)
Receives, where kindly ſhe embraces it,
Which with her genuine warmth diffus'd, and ſpread,
Sends forth betimes a green and tender head,
Then gives it motion, life, and nouriſhment,
Which from the root thro' nerves and veins are ſent.
Straight in a hollow ſheath upright it grows,
And, form receiving, doth itſelf diſcloſe:
Drawn up in ranks and files, the bearded ſpikes
Guard it from birds as with a ſtand of pikes.
When of the vine I ſpeak, I ſeem inſpir'd,
And with delight, as with her juice, am fir'd:
At nature's godlike power I ſtand amaz'd,
Which ſuch vaſt bodies hath from atoms rais'd.
The kernel of a grape, the fig's ſmall grain,
Can cloath a mountain, and o'erſhade a plain:
But thou (dear vine) forbid'ſt me to be long,
Although thy trunk be neither large, nor ſtrong.

Nor can thy head (not helpt) itſelf ſublime,
Yet, like a ſerpent, a tall tree can climb;
Whate'er thy many fingers can intwine,
Proves thy ſupport, and all its ſtrength is thine.
Though nature gave not legs, it gave thee hands,
By which thy prop the proudeſt cedar ſtands:
As thou haſt hands, ſo hath thy offspring wings,
And to the higheſt part of mortals ſprings.
But leſt thou ſhouldſt conſume thy wealth in vain,
And ſtarve thyſelf to feed a num'rous train,
Or like the bee (ſweet as thy blood) deſign'd
To be deſtroy'd to propagate his kind,
Leſt thy redundant, and ſuperfluous juice,
Should fading leaves inſtead of fruits produce,
The pruner's hand, with letting blood, muſt quench
Thy heat, and thy exub'rant parts retrench:
Then from the joints of thy prolific ſtem
A ſwelling knot is raiſed, (call'd a gem)
Whence, in ſhort ſpace, itſelf the cluſter ſhows,
And from earth's moiſture mixt with ſun-beams grows.
I'th' ſpring, like youth, it yields an acid taſte,
But ſummer doth, like age, the ſourneſs waſte;
Then cloath'd with leaves, from heat and cold ſecure,
Like virgins, ſweet, and beauteous, when mature.
On fruits, flow'rs, herbs, and plants, I long could dwell,
At once to pleaſe my eye, my taſte, my ſmell;
My walks of trees, all planted by my hand,
Like children of my own begetting, ſtand.
To tell the ſev'ral nature of each earth,
What fruits from each moſt properly take birth:

And with what arts to enrich ev'ry mold,
The dry to moiſten, and to warm the cold.
But when we graft, or buds inoculate,
Nature by art we nobly meliorate;
As Orpheus's muſic wildeſt beaſts did tame,
From the four crab the ſweeteſt apple came:
The mother to the daughter goes to ſchool,
The ſpecies changed, doth her laws o'er-rule;
Nature herſelf doth from herſelf depart,
(Strange tranſmigration) by the power of art.
How little things give law to great? we ſee
The ſmall bud captivates the greateſt tree.
Here even the power divine we imitate,
And ſeem not to beget, but to create.
Much was I pleas'd with fowls and beaſts, the tame
For food and profit, and the wild for game.
Excuſe me when this pleaſant ſtring I touch,
(For age, of what delights it, ſpeaks too much.)
Who twice victorious Pyrrhus conquered,
The Sabines and the Samnites captive led,
Great Curius, his remaining days did ſpend,
And in this happy life his triumphs end.
My farm ſtands near, and when I there retire,
His, and that age's temper I admire:
The Samnites chiefs, as by his fire he ſat,
With a vaſt ſum of gold on him did wait;
Return, ſaid he, your gold I nothing weigh,
When thoſe, who can command it, me obey:
This my aſſertion proves, he may be old,
And yet not ſordid, who refuſes gold.

In ſummer to ſit ſtill, or walk, I love,
Near a cool fountain, or a ſhady grove.
What can in winter render more delight,
Than the high ſun at noon, and fire at night?
While our old friends and neighbours feaſt and play,
And with their harmleſs mirth turn night to day,
Unpurchas'd plenty our full tables loads,
And part of what they lent, return t'our Gods.
That honour and authority which dwells
With age, all pleaſures of our youth excels.
Obſerve, that I that age have only prais'd
Whoſe pillars were on youth's foundations rais'd,
And that (for which I great applauſe receiv'd)
As a true maxim hath been ſince believ'd.
That moſt unhappy age great pity needs,
Which to defend itſelf, new matter pleads;
Not from gray hairs authority doth flow,
Nor from bald heads, nor from a wrinkled brow,
But our paſt life, when virtuouſly ſpent,
Muſt to our age thoſe happy fruits preſent.
Thoſe things to age moſt honourable are,
Which eaſy, common, and but light appear,
Salutes, conſulting, compliment, reſort,
Crouding attendance to, and from the court:
And not on Rome alone this honour waits,
But on all civil, and well-govern'd ſtates.
Lyſander pleading in his city's praiſe,
From thence his ſtrongeſt argument did raiſe,
That Sparta did with honour age ſupport,
Paying them juſt reſpect at ſtage, and court.

But at proud Athens youth did age outface,
Nor at the plays would riſe, or give them place.
When an Athenian ſtranger of great age,
Arriv'd at Sparta, climbing up the ſtage,
To him the whole aſſembly roſe, and ran
To place and eaſe this old and reverend man,
Who thus his thanks returns, Th'Athenians know
What's to be done, but what they know, not do.
Here our great ſenate's orders I may quote,
The firſt in age is ſtill the firſt in vote.
Nor honour, nor high birth, nor great command
In competition with great years may ſtand.
Why ſhould our youth's ſhort, tranſient pleaſures, dare
With age's laſting honours to compare?
On the world's ſtage, when our applauſe grows high,
For acting here life's tragic comedy,
The lookers-on will ſay we act not well,
Unleſs the laſt the former ſcenes excel:
But age is froward, uneaſy, ſcrutinous,
Hard to be pleas'd, and parſimonious;
But all thoſe errors from our manners riſe,
Not from our years; yet ſome moroſities
We muſt expect, ſince jealouſy belongs
To age, of ſcorn, and tender ſenſe of wrongs:
Yet thoſe are mollify'd, or not diſcern'd,
Where civil arts and manners have been learn'd:
So the twins humours ‡, in our Terence, are
Unlike, this harſh and rude, that ſmooth and fair,

‡ In his comedy called Adelphi.

Our nature here is not unlike our wine,
Some ſorts, when old, continue briſk and fine;
So age's gravity may ſeem ſevere,
But nothing harſh or bitter ought t'appear.
Of age's avarice I cannot ſee
What colour, ground, or reaſon there ſhould be;
Is it not folly, when the way we ride
Is ſhort, for a long voyage to provide?
To avarice ſome title youth may own,
To reap in autumn, what the ſpring had ſown;
And with the providence of bees, or ants,
Prevents with ſummer's plenty, winter's wants;
But age ſcarce ſows, till death ſtands by to reap,
And to a ſtranger's hand transfers the heap;
Afraid to be ſo once, ſhe's always poor,
And to avoid a miſchief makes it ſure.
Such madneſs, as for fear of death to die,
Is, to be poor for fear of poverty.

THE
FOURTH PART.

NOW againſt (that which terrifies our age)
The laſt, and greateſt grievance, we engage;
To her, grim death appears in all her ſhapes,
The hungry grave for her due tribute gapes.
Fond, fooliſh man! with fear of death ſurpriz'd,
Which either ſhould be wiſh'd for, or deſpis'd;
This, if our ſouls with bodies death deſtroy;
That, if our ſouls a ſecond life enjoy.
What elſe is to be fear'd? when we ſhall gain
Eternal life, or have no ſenſe of pain.
The youngeſt in the morning are not ſure,
That till the night their life they can ſecure;
Their age ſtands more expos'd to accidents
Than ours, nor common care their fate prevents:
Death's force, (with terror) againſt nature ſtrives,
Nor one of many to ripe age arrives.
From this ill fate the world's diſorders riſe,
For if all men were old, they would be wiſe;
Years and experience our fore-fathers taught,
Them under laws, and into cities brought:
Why only ſhould the fear of death belong
To age? which is as common to the young:
Your hopeful brothers, and my ſon, to you
(Scipio) and me, this maxim makes too true:

But vig'rous youth may his gay thoughts erect
To many years, which age muſt not expect,
But when he ſees his airy hopes deceiv'd,
With grief he ſays, who this would have believ'd?
We happier are than they, who but deſir'd
To poſſeſs that, which we long ſince acquir'd.
What if our age to Neſtor's could extend?
'Tis vain to think that laſting, which muſt end;
And when 'tis paſt, not any part remains
Thereof, but the reward which virtue gains.
Days, months, and years, like running waters flow,
Nor what is paſt, nor what's to come, we know:
Our date, how ſhort ſoe'er, muſt us content;
When a good actor doth his part preſent,
In ev'ry act he our attention draws,
That at the laſt he may find juſt applauſe;
So (though but ſhort) yet we muſt learn the art
Of virtue, on this ſtage to act our part;
True wiſdom muſt our actions ſo direct,
Not only the laſt plaudit to expect:
Yet grieve no more, tho' long that part ſhould laſt,
Than huſbandmen, becauſe the ſpring is paſt.
The ſpring, like youth, freſh bloſſoms doth produce,
But autumn makes them ripe, and fit for uſe:
So age a mature mellowneſs doth ſet
On the green promiſes of youthful heat.
All things which nature did ordain, are good,
And ſo muſt be receiv'd, and underſtood.
Age, like ripe apples, on earth's boſom drops,
While force our youth, like fruits untimely, crops;

The ſparkling flame of our warm blood expires,
As when huge ſtreams are pour'd on raging fires;
But age unforc'd falls by her own conſent,
As coals to aſhes, when the ſpirit's ſpent;
Therefore to death I with ſuch joy reſort,
As ſeamen from a tempeſt to their port.
Yet to that port ourſelves we muſt not force,
Before our pilot, nature, ſteers our courſe.
Let us the cauſes of our fear condemn,
Then death at his approach we ſhall contemn.
Though to our heat of youth our age ſeems cold,
Yet when reſolv'd, it is more brave and bold.
Thus Solon to Piſiſtratus reply'd,
Demanded, on what ſuccour he rely'd,
When with ſo few he boldly did engage;
He ſaid, he took his courage from his age.
Then death ſeems welcome, and our nature kind,
When leaving us a perfect ſenſe and mind,
She (like a workman in his ſcience ſkill'd)
Pulls down with eaſe, what her own hand did build.
That art which knew to join all parts in one,
Makes the leaſt violent ſeparation.
Yet though our ligaments betimes grow weak,
We muſt not force them till themſelves they break.
Pythagoras bids us in our ſtation ſtand,
Till God, our general, ſhall us diſband.
Wiſe Solon dying, wiſht his friends might grieve,
That in their memories he ſtill might live.
Yet wiſer Ennius gave command to all
His friends, not to bewail his funeral;

Your tears for ſuch a death in vain you ſpend,
Which ſtraight in immortality ſhall end.
In death if there be any ſenſe of pain,
But a ſhort ſpace, to age it will remain.
On which, without my fears, my wiſhes wait,
But tim'rous youth on this ſhould meditate:
Who for light pleaſure this advice rejects,
Finds little, when his thoughts he recollects.
Our death, (though not its certain date) we know,
Nor whether it may be this night, or no:
How then can they contented live, who fear
A danger certain? and none knows how near.
They err, who for the fear of death diſpute,
Our gallant actions this miſtake confute.
Thee Brutus, Rome's firſt martyr I muſt name,
The Curtii bravely div'd the gulph of flame:
Attilius ſacrific'd himſelf, to ſave
That faith, which to his barb'rous foes he gave.
With the two Scipio's did thy uncle fall,
Rather than fly from conqu'ring Hannibal.
The great Marcellus (who reſtored Rome)
His greateſt foes with honour did intomb.
Their lives, how many of our legions threw
Into the breach? whence no return they knew:
Muſt then the wiſe, the old, the learned fear,
What not the rude, the young, th' unlearn'd forbear?
Satiety from all things elſe doth come,
Then life muſt to itſelf grow weariſome.
Thoſe trifles wherein children take delight,
Grow nauſeous to the young man's appetite;

And from thoſe gayeties our youth requires
To exerciſe their minds, our age retires.
And when the laſt delights of age ſhall die,
Life in itſelf will find ſatiety
Now you (my friends) my ſenſe of death ſhall hear,
Which I can well deſcribe, for he ſtands near.
Your father Laelius, and your's Scipio,
My friends, and men of honour, I did know;
As certainly as we muſt die, they live
That life, which juſtly may that name receive.
Till from theſe priſons of our fleſh releas'd,
Our ſouls with heavy burdens lie oppreſs'd;
Which part of man from heaven falling down,
Earth in her low abyſs, doth hide, and drown,
A place ſo dark to the celeſtial light,
And pure, eternal fire's quite oppoſite,
The gods through human bodies did diſperſe
An heav'nly ſoul, to guide this univerſe;
That man, when he of heav'nly bodies ſaw
The order, might from thence a pattern draw:
Nor this to me did my own dictates ſhow,
But to the old philoſophers I owe.
I heard Pythagoras, and thoſe who came
With him, and from our country took their name;
Who never doubted but the beams divine,
Deriv'd from gods, in mortal breaſts did ſhine.
Nor from my knowledge did the ancients hide
What Socrates declar'd, the hour he dy'd;
He th'immortality of ſouls proclaim'd,
(Whom th' oracle of men the wiſeſt nam'd)

Why ſhould we doubt of that, whereof our ſenſe
Finds demonſtration from experience?
Our minds are here, and there, below, above;
Nothing that's mortal can ſo ſwiftly move.
Our thoughts to future things their flight direct,
And in an inſtant all that's paſt collect.
Reaſon, remembrance, wit, inventive art,
No nature, but immortal, can impart.
Man's ſoul in a perpetual motion flows,
And to no outward cauſe that motion owes;
And therefore that, no end can overtake,
Becauſe our minds cannot themſelves forſake.
And ſince the matter of our ſoul is pure,
And ſimple, which no mixture can endure
Of parts, which not among themſelves agree;
Therefore it never can divided be.
And nature ſhews (without philoſophy)
What cannot be divided, cannot die.
We even in early infancy diſcern,
Knowledge is born with babes before they learn;
E'er they can ſpeak, they find ſo many ways
To ſerve their turn, and ſee more arts than days:
Before their thoughts they plainly can expreſs,
The words and things they know are numberleſs;
Which nature only, and no art could find,
But what ſhe taught before, ſhe call'd to mind.
Theſe to his ſons (as Xenophon records)
Of the great Cyrus were the dying words;
'Fear not when I depart (nor therefore mourn)
'I ſhall be no where, or to nothing turn:

'That ſoul, which gave me life, was ſeen by none,
'Yet by the actions it deſign'd, was known;
'And though its flight no mortal eye ſhall ſee,
'Yet know, for ever it the ſame ſhall be.
'That ſoul, which can immortal glory give,
'To her own virtues muſt for ever live.
'Can you believe, that man's all-knowing mind
'Can to a mortal body be confin'd?
'Though a foul fooliſh priſon her immure
'On earth, ſhe (when eſcap'd) is wiſe, and pure.
'Man's body when diſſolv'd is but the ſame
'With beaſts, and muſt return from whence it came;
'But whence into our bodies reaſon flows,
'None ſees it, when it comes, or where it goes.
'Nothing reſembles death ſo much as ſleep,
'Yet then our minds themſelves from ſlumber keep.
'When from their fleſhly bondage they are free,
'Then what divine and future things they ſee!
'Which makes it moſt apparent whence they are,
'And what they ſhall hereafter be, declare.'
This noble ſpeech the dying Cyrus made.
Me (Scipio) ſhall no argument perſuade,
Thy grandſire, and his brother, to whom fame [name,
Gave, from two conquer'd parts o' th' world, their
Nor thy great grandſire, nor thy father Paul,
Who fell at Cannae againſt Hannibal;
Nor I, (for 'tis permitted to the ag'd
To boaſt their actions) had ſo oft engag'd
In battels, and in pleadings, had we thought,
That only fame our virtuous actions bought:

'Twere better in ſoft pleaſure and repoſe
Inglorioufly our peaceful eyes to cloſe:
Some high aſſurance hath poſſeſt my mind,
After my death, an happier life to find.
Unleſs our ſouls from the immortals came,
What end have we to ſeek immortal fame?
All virtuous ſpirits ſome ſuch hope attends,
Therefore the wiſe his days with pleaſure ends.
The fooliſh and ſhort-ſighted die with fear,
That they go no where, or they know not where.
The wiſe and virtuous ſoul, with clearer eyes,
Before ſhe parts, ſome happy port deſcries.
My friends, your fathers I ſhall ſurely ſee;
Not only thoſe I lov'd, or who lov'd me,
But ſuch as before ours did end their days;
Or whom we hear, and read, and write their praiſe.
This I believe; for were I on my way,
None ſhould perſuade me to return, or ſtay:
Should ſome god tell me, that I ſhould be born,
And cry again, his offer I ſhould ſcorn;
Aſham'd, when I have ended well my race,
To be led back to my firſt ſtarting-place.
And ſince with life we are more griev'd than joy'd,
We ſhould be either ſatisfy'd or cloy'd:
Yet will not I my length of days deplore,
As many wiſe and learn'd have done before:
Nor can I think ſuch life in vain is lent,
Which for our country and our friends is ſpent.

Hence from an inn, not from my home I paſs;
Since nature meant us here no dwelling place.
Happy when I, from this turmoil ſet free,
That peaceful and divine aſſembly ſee:
Not only thoſe I nam'd I there ſhall greet,
But my own gallant, virtuous Cato meet.
Nor did I weep, when I to aſhes turn'd
His belov'd body, who ſhould mine have burn'd.
I in my thoughts beheld his ſoul aſcend,
Where his fixt hopes our interview attend:
Then ceaſe to wonder that I feel no grief
From age, which is of my delights the chief.
My hopes, if this aſſurance hath deceiv'd,
(That I man's ſoul immortal have believ'd)
And if I err, no pow'r ſhall diſpoſſeſs
My thoughts of that expected happineſs.
Though ſome minute philoſophers pretend,
That with our days our pains and pleaſures end.
If it be ſo, I hold the ſafer ſide,
For none of them my error ſhall deride,
And if hereafter no rewards appear,
Yet virtue hath itſelf rewarded here.
If thoſe who this opinion have deſpis'd,
And their whole life to pleaſure ſacrific'd,
Should feel their error, they, when undeceiv'd,
Too late will wiſh, that me they had believ'd.
If ſouls no immortality obtain,
'Tis fit our bodies ſhould be out of pain.

The ſame uneaſineſs which ev'ry thing
Gives to our nature, life muſt alſo bring.
Good acts, if long, ſeem tedious; ſo is age,
Acting too long upon this earth her ſtage.
Thus much for age, to which when you arrive,
That joy to you, which it gives me, 'twill give.

THE

SOPHY.

AS IT WAS ACTED AT THE

PRIVATE HOUSE

IN

BLACK FRYARS,

BY

His MAJESTY's Servants.

GLASGOW:

PRINTED IN THE YEAR M.DCC.LXXI.

THE PROLOGUE.

HIther ye come, diſlike, and ſo undo
The players, and diſgrace the poet too;
But he proteſts againſt your votes, and ſwears
He'll not be try'd by any, but his peers;
He claims his privilege, and ſays 'tis fit
Nothing ſhould be the judge of wit, but wit.
Now you will all be wits; and be, I pray;
And you that diſcommend it, mend the play;
'Tis the beſt ſatisfaction he knows, then
His turn will come to laugh at you again.
But, gentlemen, if ye diſlike the play,
Pray make no words on't till the ſecond day,
Or third, be paſt: for we would have you know it,
The loſs will fall on us, not on the poet:
For he writes not for money, nor for praiſe,
Not to be call'd a wit, nor to wear bays:
Cares not for frowns, or ſmiles: ſo now you'll ſay,
Then why the devil did he write a play?
He ſays, 'twas then with him, as now with you,
He did it when he had nothing elſe to do.

Dramatis Perſonae.

ABBAS, King of Perſia.
MERZA, the Prince, his ſon.
ERYTHEA, the Princeſs, his wife.
HALY, the King's favourite, } enemies to the Prince.
MIRVAN, Haly's confident, }
ABDALL, } two Lords, friends to the Prince.
MORAT, }
CALIPH.
SOLYMAN, a fooliſh courtier.
SOPHY, the Prince's ſon, now King of Perſia.
FATYMA, his daughter.
Two Turkiſh Baſhaws.
Three Captains.
Two women.
Phyſician.
Tormentors.

SCENE, PERSIA.

THE SOPHY.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Enter ABDAL *and* MORAT.

MORAT.

MY lord, you have good intelligence,
What news from the army,
Any certainty of their deſign or ſtrength?

ABD. We know not their deſign: but for their ſtrength,
The diſproportion is ſo great, we cannot but
Expect a fatal conſequence.

MOR. How great, my lord?

ABD. The Turks are fourſcore thouſand foot,
And fifty thouſand horſe. And we in the whole
Exceed not forty thouſand.

MOR. Methinks the prince ſhould know
That judgment's more eſſential to a general,
Than courage; if he prove victorious,
'Tis but a happy raſhneſs.

ABD. But if he loſe the battle, 'tis an error
Beyond excuſe, or remedy, conſidering

That half the leſſer Aſia will follow
The victor's fortune.

MOR. 'Tis his ſingle virtue,
And terror of his name, that walls us in
From danger; were he loſt, the naked empire
Would be a prey expos'd to all invaders.

ABD. But is't not neceſſary
The king ſhould know his danger?

MOR. To tell him of ſo great a danger,
Were but to draw a greater on ourſelves:
For though his eye is open as the morning's,
Towards luſts and pleaſures, yet ſo faſt a lethargy
Has ſeiz'd his pow'rs, towards public cares and dangers,
He ſleeps like death.

ABD. He's a man of that ſtrange compoſition,
Made up of all the worſt extremities
Of youth, and age.

MOR. And though
He feels the heats of youth, and colds of age,
Yet neither tempers, nor corrects the other;
As if there were an ague in his nature
That ſtill inclines to one extreme.

ABD. But the Caliph, or Haly, or ſome that know
His ſofter hours, might beſt acquaint him with it.

MOR. Alas, they ſhew him nothing
But in the glaſs of flattery; if any thing
May bear a ſhew of glory, fame, or greatneſs,
'Tis multiply'd to an immenſe quantity,
And ſtretcht even to Divinity:

But if it tend to danger, or diſhonour,
They turn about the perſpective, and ſhew it
So little, at ſuch diſtance, ſo like nothing,
That he can ſcarce diſcern it.

ABD. 'Tis the fate of princes, that no knowledge
Comes pure to them, but paſſing through the eyes
And ears of other men, it takes a tincture
From ev'ry channel; and ſtill bears a reliſh
Of flattery, or private ends.

MOR. But danger, and neceſſity
Dare ſpeak the truth.

ABD. But commonly
They ſpeak not till it is too late:
And for Haly,
He that ſhall tell him of the prince's danger,
But tells him that himſelf is ſafe.

SCENE II.

Enter KING, PRINCESS, *and* SOLYMAN.

KING. Clear up, clear up, ſweet Erythaea,
That cloud that hangs upon thy brow preſages
A greater ſtorm than all the Turkiſh power
Can throw upon us; methinks I ſee my fortune
Settling her looks by thine, and in thy ſmile
Sits victory, and in thy frown our ruin:
Why ſhould not hope
As much erect our thoughts, as fear deject them?
Why ſhould we
Anticipate our ſorrows? 'tis like thoſe

That die for fear of death:
What is't you doubt, his courage, or his fortune?

PRINCESS. Envy itſelf could never doubt his courage.

KING. Then let not love do worſe, by doubting that
Which is but valour's ſlave; a wiſe well-temper'd valour,
For ſuch is his, thoſe giants death and danger,
Are but his miniſters, and ſerve a maſter
More to be fear'd than they; and the blind goddeſs
Is led amongſt the captives in his triumph.

PRINCESS. I had rather ſhe had eyes; for if ſhe ſaw him,
Sure ſhe would love him better; but admit
She were at once a goddeſs, and his ſlave,
Yet fortune, valour, all is overborn
By numbers: as the long reſiſting bank
By the impetuous torrent.

KING. That's but rumour:
Ne'er did the Turk invade our territory,
But fame and terror doubled ſtill their files:
But when our troops encountred, then we found
Scarce a ſufficient matter for our fury.
[*One brings word of a meſſenger.*
Solyman, conduct him in.
'Tis ſurely from the prince.

Enter Poſt, and delivers a letter.

KING. Give it our ſecretaries: I hope the prince is well.

POST. The letter will inform you. [*Enter a meſſ.*

MESS. Sir, the lords attend you.

[*Exit princeſs. Enter lords.*

KING. What news from the army?

LORD. Pleaſe you to hear the letter?

KING. Read it.

LORD. The Turk, enrag'd with his laſt year's overthrow,
Hath re-inforc'd his army with the choice of all his janizars,
And the flow'r of his whole empire;
We underſtand by ſome fugitives, that he hath commanded
The generals to return with victory, or expect
A ſhameful death: what I ſhall further do,
(Their numbers five times exceeding ours)
I deſire to receive directions from your majeſty's command.

KING. Send away all our guards,
Let freſh ſupplies of victuals, and of money——

LORD. Your treaſures
Are quite exhauſted, the exchequer's empty.

KING. Send to the bankers.

ABD. Sir, upon your late demands
They anſwered they were poor.

KING. Sure the villains hold a correſpondence
With the enemy, and thus they would betray us:
Firſt give us up to want, then to contempt,
And then to ruin; but tell thoſe ſons of earth
I'll have their money, or their heads.
'Tis my command; when ſuch occaſions are,
No plea muſt ſerve; 'tis cruelty to ſpare.

[*Exeunt lords.*

Enter another meſſenger.

KING. The prince, tranſported with his youthful heat,
I fear, hath gone too far: 'tis ſome diſaſter,
Or elſe he would not ſend ſo thick: well, bring him in:
I am prepar'd to hear the worſt of evils.

Enter SOLYMAN *and two captains. Captains kiſs his hand.*

KING. What, is the prince beſieged in his trenches,
And loſt his army, or his liberty?
Tell me what province they demand for ranſom?
Or if the worſt of all miſhaps hath fallen,
Speak, for he could not die unlike himſelf:
Speak freely; and yet methinks I read
Something of better fortune in thy looks,
But dare not hope it.

CAPT. Sir, the prince lives.

KING. And hath not loſt his honour?

CAPT. As ſafe in honour as in life.

KING. Nor liberty?

CAPT. Free as the air he breathes.

KING. Return with ſpeed:
Tell him he ſhall have money, victuals, men,
With all the haſte they can be levied. Farewel.

[*Offers to go.*

CAPT. But ſir, I have one word more.

KING. Then be brief.

CAPT. So now you are prepar'd; and I may venture

KING. What is't?

CAPT. Sir, a father's love mixt with a father's care

This ſhewing dangers greater, and that nearer,
Have rais'd your fears too high; and thoſe remov'd
Too ſuddenly, would let in ſuch a deluge
Of joy, as might oppreſs your aged ſpirits,
Which made me gently firſt remove your fears,
That ſo you might have room to entertain
Your full of joy: your ſon's a conqueror. [joys,

KING. Delude me not with feigned hopes, falſe
It cannot be. And if he can but make
A fair retreat, I ſhall account it more
Than all his former conqueſts; thoſe huge numbers
Arm'd with deſpair, the flow'r of all the empire.

CAPT. Sir, I have not us'd to tell you tales, or fables,
And why ſhould you ſuſpect your happineſs,
Being ſo conſtant? On my life 'tis true, Sir.

KING. Well, I'll no more ſuſpect
My fortune, nor thy faith:
Thou and thy news moſt welcome: Solyman,
Go call the princeſs and the lords, they ſhall
Participate our joys, as well as cares.

Enter Princeſs *and* Lords.

KING. Fair daughter, blow away thoſe miſts and clouds,
And let thy eyes ſhine forth in their full luſtre;
Inveſt them with thy loveliеſt ſmiles, put on
Thy choiceſt looks: his coming will deſerve them.

PRINCESS. What, is the prince return'd with ſafety?
'Tis beyond belief, or hope.

KING. Ay, ſweet Erythaea,
Laden with ſpoils and honour: all thy fears,
Thy wakeful terrors, and affrighting dreams,
Thy morning ſighs, and evening tears, have now
Their full rewards. And you my lords,
Prepare for maſques and triumphs: let no circumſtance
Be wanting that becomes
The greatneſs of our ſtate, or joy.
Behold he comes.

Enter PRINCE *with* Captain, *and two captive* Baſhaws.

KING. Welcome brave ſon, as welcome to thy father
As Phoebus was to Jove, when he had ſlain
Th' ambitious giants that aſſail'd the ſky;
And as my power reſembles that of Jove's,
So ſhall thy glory like high Phoebus ſhine
As bright and as immortal.

PRINCE. Great Sir, all acquiſition
Of glory as of empire, here I lay before
Your royal feet, happy to be the inſtrument
To advance either: Sir, I challenge nothing,
But am an humble ſuitor for theſe priſoners,
The late commanders of the Turkiſh powers,
Whoſe valours have deſerv'd a better fortune.

KING. Then what hath thine deſerv'd? They're thine, brave Merza.
Worthy of all thy royal anceſtors,
And all thoſe many kingdoms, which their virtue,
Or got, or kept, though thou hadſt not been born to't.

But daughter, ſtill your looks are ſad,
No longer I'll defer your joys, go take him
Into thy chaſte embrace, and whiſper to him
That welcome which thoſe bluſhes promiſe. [*Exit.*

PRINCE. My Erythaea, why entertain'ſt thou with
ſo ſad a brow
My long deſir'd return? thou waſt wont
With kiſſes and ſweet ſmiles, to welcome home
My victories, though bought with ſweat and blood,
And long expected.

PRINCESS. Pardon, Sir;
'Tis with our ſouls
As with our eyes, that after a long darkneſs
Are dazzled at the approach of ſudden light:
When i' th' midſt of fears we are ſurpriz'd
With unexpected happineſs: the firſt
Degrees of joy are mere aſtoniſhment.
And 'twas ſo lately in a dreadful dream
I ſaw my lord ſo near deſtruction,
Deprived of his eyes, a wretched captive;
Then ſhriekt myſelf awake, then ſlept again
And dreamt the ſame; my ill-preſaging fancy
Suggeſting ſtill 'twas true.

PRINCE. Then I forgive thy ſadneſs, ſince love
caus'd it.
For love is full of fears; and fear the ſhadow
Of danger, like the ſhadow of our bodies,
Is greater then, when that which is the cauſe
Is fartheſt off.

PRINCESS. But ſtill there's ſomething

That checks my joys,
Nor can I yet diſtinguiſh
Which is an apparition, this, or that.

PRINCE. An apparition?
At night I ſhall reſolve that doubt, and make
Thy dreams more pleaſing. [*Exeunt.*

Enter HALY *and* MIRVAN.

MIR. The time has been, my lord,
When I was no ſuch ſtranger to your thoughts.
You were not wont to wear upon your brow
A frown or ſmile, but ſtill have thought me worthy,
At leaſt to know the cauſe.

HA. 'Tis true,
Thy breaſt hath ever been the cabinet
Where I have lockt my ſecrets.

MIR. And did you ever find
That any art could pick the lock, or pow'r
Could force it open?

HA. No, I have ever found thee
Truſty and ſecret. But is't obſerv'd i' th' court
That I am ſad? [*court*

MIR. Obſerv'd? 'Tis all mens wonder and di
That in a joy ſo great, ſo univerſal,
You ſhould not bear a part.

HA. Diſcourſt of too?

MIR. Nothing but treaſon
More commonly, more boldly ſpoken.
So ſingular a ſadneſs
Muſt have a cauſe as ſtrange as the effect:
And grief conceal'd, like hidden fire, conſumes:

Which flaming out, would call in help to quench it.

HA. But ſince thou canſt not mend it,
To let thee know it, will but make it worſe;
Silence and time ſhall cure it.

MIR. But in diſeaſes when the cauſe is known,
'Tis more than half the cure: you have, my lord,
My heart to counſel, and my hand to act,
And my advice and actions both have met
Succeſs in things unlikely.

HA. But this
Is ſuch a ſecret, I dare hardly truſt it
To my own ſoul. And though it be a crime
In friendſhip to betray a truſted counſel,
Yet to conceal this were a greater crime,
And of a higher nature.

MIR. Now I know it,
And your endeavour to conceal it
Speaks it more plainly. 'Tis ſome plot upon the prince.

HA. Oh thou haſt touch'd my ſore, and having ſearch'd it,
Now heal it if thou canſt: the prince hates me,
Or loves me not, or loves another better;
Which is all one. This being known in court,
Has rendred me deſpis'd, and ſcorn'd of all:
For I that in his abſence
Blaz'd like a ſtar of the firſt magnitude,
Now in his brighter ſun-ſhine am not ſeen:
No applications now, no troops of ſuitors;
No power, no not ſo much as to do miſchief.

MIR. My lord, I am aſham'd of you;

So ill a maſter in an art, ſo long
Profeſt, and practis'd by you, to be angry,
And angry with a prince. And yet to ſhew it
In a ſad look, or womaniſh complaint:
How can you hope to compaſs your deſigns,
And not diſſemble 'em? Go flatter and adore him,
Stand firſt among the croud of his admirers.

HA. Oh I have often ſpread thoſe nets, but he
Hath ever been too wiſe to think them real.

MIR. However,
Diſſemble ſtill, thank him for all his injuries;
Take 'em for favours; if at laſt
You cannot gain him, ſome pretty nimble poiſon
May do the feat. Or if he will abroad,
Find him ſome brave and honourable danger.

HA. Have I not found him out as many dangers
As Juno did for Hercules? yet he returns
Like Hercules, doubled in ſtrength and honour.

MIR. If danger cannot do it, then try pleaſure,
Which, when no other enemy ſurvives,
Still conquers all the conquerors. Endeavour
To ſoften his ambition into luſt,
Contrive fit opportunities, and lay
Baits for temptation.

HA. I'll leave nothing unattempted:
But ſure this will not take; for all his paſſions,
Affections, and faculties, are ſlaves
Only to his ambition.

MIR. Then let him fall by his own greatneſs,
And puff him up with glory, till it ſwell

And puff him up with glory, till it ſwell
And break him. Firſt, betray him to himſelf,
Then to his ruin: from his virtues ſuck a poiſon,
As ſpiders do from flowers; praiſe him to his father,
You know his nature: let the prince's glory
Seem to eclipſe, and caſt a cloud on his;
And let fall ſomething that may raiſe his jealouſy:
But leſt he ſhould ſuſpect it, draw it from him
As fiſhers do the bait, to make him follow it.

HA. But the old king is ſo ſuſpicious.

MIR. But withal
Moſt fearful: he that views a fort to take it,
Plants his artillery 'gainſt the weakeſt part:
Work on his fears, till fear hath made him cruel;
And cruelty ſhall make him fear again.
Methinks (my lord) you that ſo oft have ſounded
And fathom'd all his thoughts, that know the deeps
And ſhallows of his heart, ſhould need no inſtruments
To advance your ends; his paſſions, and his fears
Lie liegers for you in his breaſt, and there
Negotiate your affairs.

Enter KING, SOLYMAN, *and* Lords, *to them.*

KING. Solyman, be it your care to entertain the captains,
And the priſoners, and uſe them kindly.

SOL. Sir, I am not for entertainments now I am melancholy.

KING. What, griev'd for your good fortune?

SOL. No, Sir, but now the wars are done, we have no pretences

To put off creditors; I am haunted, Sir.

KING. Not with ghoſts?

SOL. No, Sir,

Material and ſubſtantial devils.

KING. I know the cauſe. What is't thou ow'ſt them?

SOL. Not much Sir, but ſo much as ſpoils me for a good fellow;

'Tis but 2000 dollars. A ſmall ſum—to you, Sir.

KING. Well, it ſhall be paid.

SOL. Then if the devil come, for drinking let me alone with him.

Well, drink, I love thee but too well already,
But I ſhall love thee better hereafter: I having often
Drunk myſelf into debt, but never out of debt till now. [*Exeunt.*

ACT II. SCENE I.

Enter PRINCE, HALY, Captains, Priſoners, *and* Baſhaws.

PRINCE.

PRAY let theſe ſtrangers find ſuch entertainment
As you would have deſir'd,
Had but the chance of war determin'd it
For them, as now for us. And you, brave enemies,
Forget your nation, and ungrateful maſter;
And know that I can ſet ſo high a price

On valour, though in foes, as to reward it
With truſt and honour.

1 Baſhaw. Sir, your twice conquer'd vaſſals,
Firſt by your courage, then your clemency,
Here humbly vow to ſacrifice their lives,
(The gift of this your unexampled mercy)
To your command and ſervice.

PRINCE *to* HALY. I pray, my lord, ſecond my ſuit;
I have already mov'd the king in private,
That in our next year's expedition they may have
Some command.

HAL. I ſhall, my lord,
And glad of the occaſion,
I wonder, Sir, you'll leave the court, the ſphere
Where all your graces in full luſtre ſhine.

PRINCE. Ay, Haly, but the reputation
Of virtuous actions paſt, if not kept up
With an acceſs, and freſh ſupply of new ones,
Is loſt and ſoon forgotten; and like palaces,
For want of habitation and repair,
Diſſolve to heaps of ruin.

HA. But can you leave, Sir,
Your old indulgent father, and forſake
The embraces of ſo fair, ſo chaſte a wife?
And all the beauties of the court beſides,
Are mad in love, and dote upon your perſon:
And is't not better ſleeping in their arms,
Than in a cold pavilion in the camp;
Where your ſhort ſleeps are broke and interrupted

With noiſes and alarms?

PRINCE. Haly, thou know'ſt not me, how I deſpiſe
Theſe ſhort and empty pleaſures; and how low
They ſtand in my eſteem, which ev'ry peaſant,
The meaneſt ſubject in my father's empire,
Enjoys as fully, in as high perfection
As he or I; and which are had in common
By beaſts as well as men: wherein they equal,
If not exceed us; pleaſures to which we're led
Only by ſenſe, thoſe creatures which have leaſt
Of reaſon, moſt enjoy.

HA. Is not
The empire you are born to, a ſcene large enough
To exerciſe your virtues? there are virtues
Civil as well as military; for the one
You have given the world an ample proof already:
Now exerciſe the other, 'tis no leſs
To govern juſtly, make your empire flouriſh
With wholeſome laws, in riches, peace, and plenty,
Than by the expence of wealth and blood to make
New acquiſitions.

PRINCE. That I was born ſo great, I owe to fortune,
And cannot pay that debt, till virtue ſet me
High in example, as I ſtand in title;
Till what the world calls fortune's gifts, my actions
May ſtile their own rewards, and thoſe too little.
Princes are then themſelves, when they ariſe
More glorious in mens thoughts than in their eyes.

HA. Sir, your fame
Already fills the world, and what is infinite

Cannot receive degrees, but will ſwallow
All that is added: as our Caſpian ſea
Receives our rivers, and yet ſeems not fuller:
And if you tempt her more, the wind of fortune
May come about, and take another point,
And blaſt your glories.

PRINCE. No,
My glories are paſt danger, they're full blown:
Things that are blaſted, are but in the bud;
And as for fortune, I nor love, nor fear her:
I am reſolv'd; go Haly, flatter ſtill your aged maſter,
Still ſooth him in his pleaſures, and ſtill grow
Great by thoſe arts.
Well, farewel court,
Where vice not only hath uſurpt the place,
But the reward, and even the name of virtue.

HA. Still, ſtill
Slighted and ſcorn'd; yet this affront
Hath ſtampt a noble title on my malice,
And married it to juſtice. The king is old,
And when the prince ſucceeds
I'm loſt paſt all recovery: then I
Muſt meet my danger, and deſtroy him firſt;
But cunningly, and cloſely, or his ſon
And wife, like a fierce tygreſs will devour me.
There's danger every way; and ſince 'tis ſo,
'Tis brave, and noble, when the falling weight
Of my own ruin cruſhes thoſe I hate:
But how to do it, that's the work, he ſtands
So high in reputation with the people.

There's but one way, and that's to make his father
The inſtrument, to give the name, and envy
To him; but to myſelf the prize and glory.
He's old and jealous, apt for ſuſpicions, 'gainſt which tyrant's ears
Are never clos'd. The prince is young,
Fierce, and ambitious. I muſt bring together
All theſe extremes; and then remove all mediums,
That each may be the other's object.

Enter MIRVAN.

MIR. My lord,
Now if your plots be ripe, you are befriended
With opportunity; the king is melancholy,
Apted for any ill impreſſions.
Make an advantage of the prince's abſence,
Urge ſome ſuſpected cauſe of his departure,
Uſe all your art: he's coming. [*Exit* Mirv.

Enter KING.

HA. Sir, have you known an action of ſuch glory
Leſs ſwell'd with oſtentation, or a mind
Leſs tainted with felicity? 'tis a rare temper in the prince.

KING. Is it ſo rare to ſee a ſon ſo like
His father? have not I performed actions
As great, and with as great a moderation?

HA. Ay, Sir, but that's forgotten.
Actions o' th' laſt age, are like almanacks o' th' laſt year.

KING. 'Tis well; but with all his conqueſts, wha I get in empire

Loſe in fame: I think myſelf no gainer.
But am I quite forgotten?

HA. Sir, you know
Age breeds neglect in all, and actions
Remote in time, like objects
Remote in place, are not beheld at half their greatneſs;
And what is new finds better acceptation,
Than what is good or great: yet ſome old men
Tell ſtories of you in their chimney-corners.

KING. No otherwiſe?

HA. They're all ſo full of him: ſome magnify
His courage, ſome his wit, but all admire
A greatneſs ſo familiar.

KING. Sure Haly
Thou haſt forgot thy thyſelf: art thou a courtier,
Or I a king? my ears are unacquainted
With ſuch bold truths; eſpecially from thee.

HA. Sir, when I am call'd to't, I muſt ſpeak
Boldly and plainly.

KING. But with what eagerneſs, what circumſtance,
Unaskt, thou tak'ſt ſuch pains to tell me only
My ſon's the better man!

HA. Sir, where ſubjects want the privilege
To ſpeak; there kings may have the privilege
To live in ignorance.

KING. I 'twere a ſecret that concern'd my life
Or empire, then this boldneſs might become thee;
But ſuch unneceſſary rudeneſs favours
Of ſome deſign.

And this is ſuch a falſe and ſquint-ey'd praiſe,
Which ſeeming to look upwards on his glories,
Looks down upon my fears; I know thou hat'ſt him;
And like infected perſons fain wouldſt rub
The ulcer of thy malice upon me.

HA. Sir, I almoſt believe you ſpeak your thoughts,
But that I want the guilt to make me fear it.

KING. What mean theſe guilty bluſhes then?

HA. Sir, If I bluſh, it is becauſe you do not,
To upbraid ſo try'd a ſervant, that ſo often
Have wak'd that you might ſleep; and been expos'd
To dangers for your ſafety.

KING. And therefore think'ſt
Thou art ſo wrapt, ſo woven into all
My truſts and counſels, that I now muſt ſuffer
All thy ambition aims at.

HA. Sir, if your love grows weary,
And thinks you have worn me long enough, I'm willing
To be left off; but he's a fooliſh ſeaman,
That when his ſhip is ſinking, will not
Unlade his hopes into another bottom.

KING. I underſtand no allegories.

HA. And he's as ill a courtier, that when
His maſter's old, deſires not to comply
With him that muſt ſucceed.

KING. But if
He will not be comply'd with?

HA. Oh Sir,
There's one ſure way, and I have known it practis'd

In other ſtates.

KING. What's that?

HA. To make
The father's life the price of the ſon's favour,
To walk upon the graves of our dead maſters
To our own ſecurity.

[*King ſtarts and ſcratches his head.*

HA. 'Tis this muſt take: [*Aſide.*] does this plainneſs pleaſe you, Sir?

KING. Haly, thou know'ſt my nature, too too apt
To theſe ſuſpicions; but I hope the queſtion
Was never mov'd to thee?

HA. In other kingdoms, Sir.

KING. But has my ſon no ſuch deſign?

HA. Alas,
You know I hate him; and ſhould I tell you
He had, you'd ſay it was but malice.

KING. No more of that, good Haly, I know thou lov'ſt me:
But leſt the care of future ſafety tempt thee
To forfeit preſent loyalty; or preſent loyalty
Forfeit thy future ſafety,
I'll be your reconciler: call him hither.

HA. Oh ſir, I wiſh he were within my call, or yours.

KING. Why, where is he?

HA. He has left the court, Sir.

KING. I like not theſe excurſions: why ſo ſuddenly?

HA. 'Tis but a ſally of youth, yet ſome ſay he's diſcontented.

KING. That grates my heart-ſtrings. What ſhould
diſcontent him?
Except he thinks I live too long.
HA. Heav'n forbid:
And yet I know no cauſe of his departure;
I'm ſure he's honour'd, and lov'd by all;
The ſoldiers god, the people's idol.
KING. Ay, Haly,
The Perſians ſtill worſhip the riſing ſun.
But who went with him?
HA. None but the captains.
KING. The captains? I like not that.
HA. Never fear it, Sir: [prince
'Tis true, they love him but as their general, not thei
And though he be moſt forward and ambitious,
'Tis temper'd with ſo much humility.
KING. And ſo much the more dangerous;
There are ſome that uſe
Humility to ſerve their pride, and ſeem
Humble upon their way, to be the prouder
At their wiſht journey's end.
HA. Sir, I know not
What ways or ends you mean; 'tis true
In popular ſtates, or where the prince's title
Is weak, and muſt be propt by the people's power;
There by familiar ways 'tis neceſſary
To win on mens affections. But none of theſe
Can be his end.
KING. But there's another end;
For if his glories riſe upon the ruins

Of mine, why not his greatneſs too?

HA. True Sir,
Ambition is like love, impatient
Both of delays and rivals. But nature——

KING. But empire——

HA. I had almoſt forgot, Sir, he has
A ſuit to your majeſty.

KING. What is't?

HA. To give the Turkiſh priſoners ſome command
In the next action.

KING Nay, then, 'tis too apparent,
He fears my ſubjects loyalty,
And now muſt call in ſtrangers; come deal plainly,
I know thou canſt diſcover more.

Ha. I can diſcover, Sir,
The depth of your great judgment in ſuch dangers.

KING. What ſhall I do, Haly?

HA. Your wiſdom is ſo great, it were preſumption
for me to adviſe.

KING. Well, we'll conſider more of that, but for
the preſent
Let him with ſpeed be ſent for. Mahomet I thank thee,
I have one faithful ſervant, honeſt Haly.

Exit King.

Enter MIRVAN.

MIR. How did he take it?

HA. Swallow'd it as greedily
As parched earth drinks rain.
Now the firſt part of our deſign is over,

His ruin; but the ſecond, our ſecurity,
Muſt now be thought on.

MIR. My lord, you are too ſudden; tho' his fury
Determine raſhly, yet his colder fear,
Before it executes, conſults with reaſon,
And that not ſatisfied with ſhews or ſhadows,
Will aſk to be convinc'd by ſomething real;
Now muſt we frame ſome plot, and then diſcover it.

HA. Or intercept ſome letter, which ourſelves
Had forg'd before.

MIR. And ſtill admire the miracle,
And thank the providence.

HA. Then we muſt draw in ſome-body
To be the public agent, that may ſtand
'Twixt us and danger, and the people's envy.

MIR. Who fitter than the grand Caliph?
And he will ſet a grave religious face
Upon the buſineſs.

HA. But if we cannot work him,
For he's ſo full of fooliſh ſcruples;
For if he ſhould prove falſe, and then betray us.

MIR. Betray us? ſure, my lord, your fear has
blinded
Your underſtanding; for what ſerves the king?
Will not his threats work more than our perſuaſions,
While we look on, and laugh, and ſeem as ignorant
As unconcern'd; and thus appearing friends
To either ſide, on both may work our ends.

Enter Meſſenger.

MESS. My Lord, the Turkiſh Baſhaws
Deſire acceſs.

HA. Admit 'em, I know their buſineſs.

MIR. They long to hear with what ſucceſs you mov'd
The king in their behalf. [buſineſs

HA. But now they're come, I'll make 'em do my
Better than I did theirs.

MIR. Leave us a while.

Enter two Baſhaws.

HA. My lords, my duty and affection to the prince,
And the reſpects I owe to men of honour,
Extort a ſecret from me, which I yet grieve to utter:
The prince departing, left to me the care
Of your affairs, which I, as he commanded,
Have recommended to the king, but with ſo unlookt for
A ſucceſs—— [we

1 BAS. My lord, fear not to ſpeak our doom, while
Fear not to hear it: we were loſt before,
And can be ready now to meet that fate
We then expected.

HA. Though he that brings unwelcome news
Has but a loſing office, yet he that ſhews
Your danger firſt, and then your way to ſafety,
May heal that wound he made. You know the king
With jealous eyes hath ever lookt awry
On his ſon's actions, but the fame and glory
Of the laſt war hath rais'd another ſpirit;
Envy and jealouſy are twin'd together,
Yet both lay hid in his diſſembled ſmiles,
Like two concealed ſerpents, till I, unhappy I,
Moving this queſtion, trod upon them both,

And rous'd their ſleeping angers; then caſting from him
His doubts, and ſtraight confirm'd in all his fears,
Decrees to you a ſpeedy death, to his own ſon
A cloſe reſtraint: but what will follow
I dare not think; you by a ſudden flight may find your ſafety.

2 BAS. Sir, death and we are not ſuch ſtrangers,
That we ſhould make diſhonour, or ingratitude,
The price of life, it was the prince's gift,
And we but wear it for his ſake and ſervice.

HA. Then for his ſake and ſervice, [vour
Pray follow my advice: though you have loſt the fa-
Of your unworthy maſter; yet in the provinces
You lately govern'd, you have thoſe dependences
And intereſts, that you may raiſe a power
To ſerve the prince: I'll give him timely notice
To ſtand upon his guard.

1 BAS. My lord we thank you,
But we muſt give the prince intelligence,
Both when, and how to employ us.

HA. If you will write,
Commit it to my care and ſecrecy,
To ſee it ſafe convey'd.

2 BAS. We ſhall, my lord. [Ex.

HA. Theſe men were once the prince's foes, and then
Unwillingly they made him great: but now
Being his friends, ſhall willingly undo him;
And which is more, be ſtill his friends.
What little arts govern the world! we need not

An armed enemy, or corrupted friend;
When ſervice but miſplac'd, or love miſtaken
Performs the work: nor is this all the uſe
I'll make of them; when once they are in arms,
Their maſter ſhall be wrought to think theſe forces
Rais'd againſt him; and this ſhall ſo endear me
To him, that though dull virtue and the gods
O'ercome my ſubtle miſchief, I may find
A ſafe retreat, and may at leaſt be ſure
If not more mighty, to be more ſecure. [*Exeunt.*

ACT III. SCENE I.

Enter KING *and* HALY.

KING.

BUT Haly, what confederates has the prince
In his conſpiracy?

HA. Sir, I can yet ſuſpect
None but the Turkiſh priſoners, and that only
From their late ſudden flight.

KING. Are they fled? For what?

HA. That, their own fears beſt know; the entertainment
I'm ſure was ſuch as could not miniſter
Suſpicion or diſlike: but ſure they're conſcious
Of ſome intended miſchief, and are fled
To put it into act.

KING. This ſtill confirms me more;

But let 'em be purſu'd: let all the paſſages
Be well ſecur'd, that no intelligence
May paſs between the prince and them.

HA. It ſhall be done, Sir.

KING. Is the Caliph prepar'd?

HA. He's without, Sir,
And waits your pleaſure.

KING. Call him.

Enter CALIPH.

KING. I have a great deſign to act, in which
The greateſt part is thine. In brief 'tis this,
I fear my ſon's high ſpirit; and ſuſpect
Deſigns upon my life and crown.

CA. Sure, Sir, your fears are cauſeleſs;
Such thoughts are ſtrangers to his noble ſoul.

KING. No, 'tis too true; I muſt prevent my danger,
And make the firſt attempt: there's no ſuch way
To avoid a blow, as to ſtrike firſt, and ſure.

CA. But, Sir, I hope my function ſhall exempt me
From bearing any part in ſuch deſigns.

KING. Your function! [*laughs.*] do you think that princes
Will raiſe ſuch men ſo near themſelves for nothing?
We but advance you to advance our purpoſes:
Nay even in all religions,
Their learned'ſt, and their ſeeming holieſt men, do ſerve
To work their maſters ends; and varniſh o'er
Their actions, with ſome ſpecious pious colour.
No ſcruples; do't, or by our holy prophet,

The death my rage intends to him, is thine.

CA. Sir, 'tis your part to will, mine to obey.

KING. Then be wiſe and ſudden.

Enter Lords as to council. ABDAL, MORAT.

CA. My lords, it grieves me to relate the cauſe
Of this aſſembly; and 'twill grieve you all:
The prince you know ſtands high in all thoſe graces
Which nature, ſeconded by fortune, gives:
Wiſdom he has, and to his wiſdom courage;
Temper to that, and unto all ſucceſs. But
Ambition, the diſeaſe of virtue, bred
Like ſurfeits from an undigeſted fulneſs,
Meets death in that which is the means of life.
Great Mahomet, to whom our ſov'reign's life
And empire is moſt dear, appearing, thus
Advis'd me in a viſion; tell the king,
The prince his ſon attempts his life and crown;
And though no creature lives that more admires
His virtues, nor affects his perſon more
Than I; yet zeal and duty to my ſovereign
Have cancell'd all reſpects; nor muſt we ſlight
The prophet's revelations.

ABD. Remember, Sir, he is your ſon,
Indeared to you by a double bond,
As to his king, and father.

KING. And the remembrance of that double bond
Doubles my ſorrows. 'Tis true,
Nature and duty bind him to obedience;
But thoſe being placed in a lower ſphere,
His fierce ambition, like the higheſt mover,

Has hurried with a ſtrong impulſive motion
Againſt their proper courſe. But ſince he has forgot
The duty of a ſon, I can forget
The affections of a father.

ABD. But Sir, in the beginning of diſeaſes
None try the extremeſt remedies.

KING. But when they're ſudden,
The cure muſt be as quick; when I'm dead, you'll ſay,
My fears have been too ſlow: treaſons are acted,
As ſoon as thought, though they are ne'er believ'd
Until they come to act.

MOR. But conſider, Sir,
The greatneſs of the attempt, the people love him;
The lookers-on, and the enquiring vulgar
Will talk themſelves to action: thus by avoiding
A danger but ſuppos'd, you tempt a real one.

KING. Thoſe kings whom envy, or the people's murmur
Deter from their own purpoſes, deſerve not
Nor know not their own greatneſs:
The people's murmur, 'tis a ſulphurous vapour
Breath'd from the bowels of the baſeſt earth;
And it may ſoil and blaſt things near itſelf:
But ere it reach the region we are plac'd in,
It vaniſhes to air; we are above
The ſenſe or danger of ſuch ſtorms.

CAL. True, Sir, they are but ſtorms while royalty
Stands like a rock, and the tumultuous vulgar,
Like billows rais'd with wind (that's with opinion)
May roar, and make a noiſe, and threaten;

But if they rowl too near, they're dash'd in pieces
While they stand firm.

ABD. Yet, Sir, crowns are not plac'd so high,
But vulgar hands may reach 'em.

KING. Then 'tis when they are plac'd on vulgar heads.

ABD. But, Sir,
Look back upon yourself; why should your son
Anticipate a hope so near, so certain? We may wish and pray
For your long life: but neither prayers nor power
Can alter fate's decree, or nature's law.
Why should he ravish then that diadem
From your gray temples, which the hand of time
Must shortly plant on his?

KING. My lords,
I see you look upon me as a sun
Now in his west, half buried in a cloud,
Whose rays the vapours of approaching night
Have render'd weak and faint; but you shall find
That I can yet shoot beams, whose heat can melt
The waxen wings of this ambitious boy.
Nor runs my blood so cold, nor is my arm
So feeble yet, but he that dares defend him,
Shall feel my vengeance, and shall usher me
Into my grave.

ABD. Sir, we defend him not,
Only desire to know his crime: 'tis possible
It may be some mistake, or mis-report,
Some false suggestion, or malicious scandal:

Or if ambition be his fault, 'twas yours;
He had it from you, when he had his being:
Nor was't his fault, nor yours, for 'tis in princes
A crime to want it; from a noble ſpirit
Ambition can no more be ſeparated,
Than heat from fire: or if you fear the viſion,
Will you ſuſpect the noble prince, becauſe
This holy man is troubled in his ſleep?
Becauſe his crazy ſtomach wants concoction,
And breeds ill fumes; or his melancholy ſpleen
Sends up fantaſtic vapours to his brain?
Dreams are but dreams, theſe cauſeleſs fears become not
Your noble ſoul.

KING. Who ſpeaks another word
Hath ſpoke his laſt: great Mahomet, we thank thee,
Protector of this empire, and this life,
Thy cares have met my fears; this on preſumptions
Strong and apparent, I have long preſag'd:
And though a prince may puniſh what he fears,
Without account to any but the gods;
Wiſe ſtates as often cut off ills may be,
As thoſe that are; and prevent purpoſes
Before they come to practice; and foul practices
Before they grow to act. You cannot but obſerve
How he diſlikes the court, his rude departure,
His honour from the people and the ſoldiers,
His ſeeking to oblige the Turks, his priſoners,
Their ſudden and ſuſpected flight,
And above all, his reſtleſs tow'ring thoughts.

[*One brings word of a meſſenger.*

KING. If the buſineſs be important,
Admit him.

Enter Meſſenger *with a letter.*

Meſſ. Sir, upon your late command
To guard the paſſages, and ſearch all packets,
This to the prince was intercepted.

[*King opens it, and reads it to himſelf.*

KING. Here Abdal, read it.

ABDAL *reads.* Sir, we are aſſured how unnatural
your father's intentions
Are towards you, and how cruel towards us; we have
Made an eſcape, not ſo much to ſeek our own,
As to be inſtruments of your ſafety: we will be
In arms upon the borders, upon your command,
Either to ſeek danger with you, or to receive you
If you pleaſe, to ſeek ſafety with us.

KING Now my lords,
Alas my fears are cauſeleſs and ungrounded,
Fantaſtic dreams, and melancholy fumes
Of crazy ſtomachs, and diſtemper'd brains:
Has this convinc'd you?

MOR. Sir, we ſee
Some reaſon you ſhould fear, but whom, we know not;
'Tis poſſible theſe Turks may play the villains,
Knowing the prince the life of all our hopes,
Staff of our age, and pillar of our empire;
And having fail'd by force, may uſe this art
To ruin him, and by their treaſon here
To make their peace at home.
Now ſhould this prove a truth, when he has ſuffer'd

Death, or diſgrace, which are to him the ſame,
'Twill be too late to ſay you were miſtaken;
And then to cry him mercy: Sir, we beſeech you
A while ſuſpend your doom, till time produce
Her wonted off-ſpring, truth.

KING. And ſo expecting
The event of what you think, ſhall prove the experiment
Of what I fear; but ſince he is my ſon,
I cannot have ſuch violent thoughts towards him,
As his towards me: he only ſhall remain
A priſoner, till his death, or mine, inlarge him.

[*Ex. Lords,* MOR. HALY.

SOLYMAN *peeps in.*

KING. Away, away, we're ſerious.

SOL. But not ſo ſerious to neglect your ſafety.

KING. Art thou in earneſt? [ters.

SOL. Nay, Sir, I can be ſerious as well as my bet-

KING. What's the matter?

SOL. No, I am an inconſiderable fellow, and know nothing.

KING. Let's hear that nothing then.

SOL. The Turks, Sir.

KING. What of them?

SOL. When they could not overcome you by force, they'll
Do it by treachery.

KING. As how?

SOL. Nay, I can ſee as far into a milſtone, as another man.

They have corrupted ſome ill-affected perſons.

KING. What to do? [ſon.

SOL. To nouriſh jealouſies 'twixt you and your

KING. My ſon, where is he?

SOL. They ſay he's poſting hither.

KING. Haly, we are betray'd, prevented, look to the ports, and let

The guards be doubled: how far's his army hence? Is the city in arms to join with him? [not.

SOL. Arms? and join with him? I underſtand you

KING. Didſt thou not ſay the prince was coming?

SOL. I heard ſome fooliſh people ſay you had ſent for him, as a traitor, which to my apprehenſion was on purpoſe ſpoken to make you odious, and make him deſperate; and ſo divide the people into faction. A plot of dangerous conſequence, as I take it, Sir.

KING. And is this all, thou ſawcy trifling fool?

HALY. Sir, this ſeeming fool is a concealed dangerous knave;

Under this ſafe diſguiſe he thinks he may ſay or do any thing: you'll little think him the chief conſpirator,

The only ſpy t' inform the prince of all is done in court.

KING. Let him be rack'd, till he confeſs

The whole conſpiracy. [more.

SOL. Rack'd! I have told you all I know, and There's nothing more in me, Sir, but may be ſqueezed out without racking, only a ſtoop or two of wine; and if there had not been too much of that, you had not had ſo much of the other.

KING. That's your cunning, ſirrah.

SOL. Cunning, Sir! I am no politician; and was ever thought to have too little wit, and too much plain dealing for a ſtates-man. [*Exit.*

KING. Away with him.

HA. But ſomething muſt be done, Sir, to ſatisfy the people:
'Tis not enough to ſay he did deſign,
Or plot or think, but did attempt ſome violence;
And then ſome ſtrange miraculous eſcape:
For which our prophet muſt have public thanks:
And this falſe colour ſhall delude the eyes
Of the amuſed vulgar.

KING. 'Tis well advis'd.

Enter Meſſenger.

Meſſ. Sir, his highneſs has return'd.

KING. And unconſtrain'd? But with what change
Of countenance did he receive the meſſage?

Meſſ. With ſome amazement;
But ſuch as ſprung from wonder, not from fear,
It was ſo unexpected.

KING. Leave us.
Haly, I ever found thee honeſt; truer to me
Than mine own blood, and now's the time to ſhew it:
For thou art he my love and truſt hath choſen
To put in action my deſign: ſurprize him
As he ſhall paſs the galleries. I'll place
A guard behind the arras; when thou haſt him,
Since blinded with ambition, he did ſoar
Like a ſeel'd dove, his crime ſhall be his puniſhment

To be depriv'd of ſight, which ſee perform'd
With a hot ſteel: now as thou lov'ſt my ſafety
Be reſolute and ſudden.

HA. 'Tis ſevere;
But yet I dare not intercede: it ſhall be done:
But is that word irrevocable?

KING. Ay, as years, or ages paſt; relent not: if thou doſt——— [*Exit King.*

Enter MIRVAN.

MIR. Why ſo melancholy? is the deſign diſcover'd?

HA. No, but I am made the inſtrument,
That ſtill endeavour'd to diſguiſe my plots,
With borrow'd looks, and make 'em walk in darkneſs;
To act 'em now myſelf; be made the mark
For all the peoples hate, the princeſs curſes,
And his ſon's rage, or the old king's inconſtancy.
For this to tyranny belongs,
To forget ſervice, but remember wrongs.

MIR. But could you not contrive
Some fine pretence, to caſt it on ſome other?

HA. No, he dare truſt no other: had I given
But the leaſt touch of any private quarrel,
My malice to his ſon, not care of him,
Had then begot this ſervice,

MIR. 'Tis but t'other plot, my lord; you know
The king by other wives had many ſons:
Sophy is but a child, and you already
Command the emperor's guard; procure for me
The government o' th' city; when he dies,

Urge how unfortunate thoſe ſtates have been
Whoſe princes are but children; then ſet the crown
Upon ſome other's head, that may acknowledge
And owe the empire to your gift.

HA: It ſhall be done; Abdal, who commands
The city, is the prince's friend, and therefore
Muſt be diſplac'd, and thou ſhalt ſtraight ſucceed him.
Thou art my better genius, honeſt Mirvan;
Greatneſs we owe to fortune, or to fate;
But wiſdom only can ſecure that ſtate. [*Ex*

Enter Prince at one door, and Princeſs at another.

PRINCESS. You're doubly welcome now, my
lord, your coming
Was ſo unlookt for.

PRINCE. To me I'm ſure it was;
Know'ſt thou the cauſe? for ſure it was important,
That calls me back ſo ſuddenly.

PRINCESS. I am ſo ignorant,
I knew not you were ſent for.
Waking I know no cauſe, but in my ſleep
My fancy ſtill preſents ſuch dreams and terrors,
As did Andromache's the night before
Her Hector fell; but ſure 'tis more than fancy.
Either our guardian angels, or the gods
Inſpire us, or ſome natural inſtinct
Fore-tells approaching dangers.

PRINCE. How does my father?

PRINCESS. Still talks and plays with Fatyma, b
his mirth
Is forc'd and ſtrain'd: in his looks appears

A wild diſtracted fierceneſs; I can read
Some dreadful purpoſe in his face; but where
This diſmal cloud will break, and ſpend his fury,
I dare not think: pray heav'n make falſe his fears.
Sometimes his anger breaks through all diſguiſes,
And ſpares not gods, nor men; and then he ſeems
Jealous of all the world: ſuſpects, and ſtarts,
And looks behind him.

Enter MORAT, *as in haſte.*

MOR. Sir, with hazard of my life I've ventur'd
To tell you, you are loſt, betray'd, undone;
Rouze up your courage, call up all your counſels,
And think on all thoſe ſtratagems which nature
Keeps ready to encounter ſudden dangers.

PRINCE. But pray, my lord, by whom? for what offence?

MOR. Is it a time for ſtory, when each minute
Begets a thouſand dangers? the gods protect you. [*Exit.*

PRINCE. This man was ever honeſt, and my friend,
And I can ſee in his amazed look,
Something of danger, but in act or thought,
I never did that thing ſhould make me fear it.

PRINCESS. Nay, good ſir, let not ſo ſecure a confidence
Betray you to your ruin.

PRINCE. Pr'ythee woman
Keep to thyſelf thy fears, I cannot know
There's ſuch a thing in nature; I ſtand ſo ſtrong,
Incloſed with a double guard of virtue,
And innocence, that I can look on dangers,

As he that ſtands upon a rock
Can look on ſtorms and tempeſts. Fear and guilt
Are the ſame thing; and when our actions are not,
Our fears are crimes.
And he deſerves it leſs that guilty bears
A puniſhment, than he that guiltleſs fears. [*Ex.*

Enter HALY *and torturers.*

HA. This is the place appointed, aſſiſt me courage!
This hour ends all my fears; but pauſe a while;
Suppoſe I ſhould diſcover to the prince
The whole conſpiracy, and ſo retort it
Upon the king; it were an handſome plot,
But full of difficulties, and uncertain;
And he's ſo fool'd with downright honeſty,
He'll ne'er believe it; and 'tis now too late;
The guards are ſet, and now I hear him coming.

Enter Prince, ſtumbles at the entrance.

PRINCE. 'Tis ominous, but I will on; deſtruction
O'ertakes as often thoſe that fly, as thoſe that boldly meet it.

HA. By your leave Prince, your father greets you.

PRINCE. Unhand me, traitors.

[*Haly caſts a ſcarf over his face.*

HA. That title is your own, and we are ſent to let you know it.

PRINCE. Is not that the voice of Haly?

HA. Ay, virtuous Prince, I come to make you exerciſe
One virtue more, your patience.
Heat the irons quickly.

PRINCE. O villain, ſhall I not ſee my father,
To aſk him what's my crime? who my accuſers?
Let me but try if I can wake his pity
From his lethargic ſleep.

HA. It muſt not be, ſir.

PRINCE. Shall I not ſee my wife, nor bid farewell
To my dear children?

HA. Your pray'rs are all in vain.

PRINCE. Thou ſhalt have half my empire, Haly, let me but
See the tyrant, that before my eyes are loſt,
They may dart pois'nous flaſhes like the baſiliſk,
And look him dead; theſe eyes that ſtill were open,
Or to foreſee, or to prevent his dangers,
Muſt they be cloſed in eternal night?
Cannot his thirſt of blood be ſatsified
With any but his own? and can his tyranny
Find out no other object but his ſon?
I ſeek not mercy; tell him, I deſire
To die at once, not to conſume an age
In lingring deaths.

HA. Our ears are charm'd: away with him.

PRINCE. Can ye behold (ye gods) a wronged innocent?
Or ſleeps your juſtice, like my father's mercy?
Or are you blind? as I muſt be. [*Exeunt,*

ACT IV. SCENE I.

Enter ABDAL *and* MORAT.

ABDAL.

I Ever fear'd the Prince's too much greatneſs
Would make him leſs: the greateſt heights are near
The greateſt precipice.

MOR. 'Tis in worldly accidents
As in the world itſelf, where things moſt diſtant
Meet one another: thus the eaſt and weſt,
Upon the globe, a mathematic point
Only divides: thus happineſs and miſery,
And all extremes, are ſtill contiguous.

ABD. Or, if 'twixt happineſs and miſery there be
A diſtance, 'tis an airy vacuum;
Nothing to moderate, or break the fall.

MOR. But oh the ſaint-like devil!
This damn'd Caliph, to make the king believe,
To kill his ſon, 's religion.

ABD. Poor princes, how are they miſ-led!
While they, whoſe ſacred office 'tis to bring
Kings to obey their God, and men their king;
By theſe myſterious links to fix and tye
Them to the foot-ſtool of the Deity;
Even by theſe men, religion, that ſhould be
The curb, is made the ſpur to tyranny:
They with their double key of conſcience bind
The ſubjects ſouls, and leave kings unconfin'd;

While their poor vaſſals ſacrifice their bloods
T'ambition; and to avarice, their goods:
Blind with devotion, they themſelves eſteem
Made for themſelves, and all the world for them;
While heav'n's great law, given for their guide, appears
Juſt, or unjuſt, but as it waits on theirs:
Us'd, but to give the echo to their words,
Power to their wills, and edges to their ſwords.
To varniſh all their errors, and ſecure
The ills they act, end all the world endure.
Thus by their arts kings awe the world, while they
Religion, as their miſtreſs, ſeem t'obey;
Yet as their ſlave command her; while they ſeem
To riſe to heav'n, they make heav'n ſtoop to them.

MOR. Nor is this all, where feign'd devotion bends
The higheſt things, to ſerve the loweſt ends:
For if the many-headed beaſt hath broke,
Or ſhaken from his neck the royal yoke,
With popular rage, religion doth conſpire,
Flows into that, and ſwells the torrent higher:
Then power's firſt pedigree from force derives,
And calls to mind the old prerogatives
Of free-born man; and with a faucy eye
Searches the heart and ſoul of majeſty:
Then to a ſtrict account, and cenſure brings
The actions, errors, and the end of kings;
Treads on authority, and ſacred laws;
Yet all for God, and his pretended cauſe.
Acting ſuch things for him, which he in them,
And which themſelves in others will condemn;

And thus engag'd, nor ſafely can retire,
Nor ſafely ſtand, but blindly bold aſpire,
Forcing their hopes, even through deſpair, to climb
To new attempts; diſdain the preſent time,
Grow from diſdain to threats, from threats to arms;
While they (though ſons of peace) ſtill ſound th' alarms.
Thus whether kings or people ſeek extremes,
Still conſcience and religion are their themes:
And whatſoever change the ſtate invades,
The pulpit either forces, or perſuades.
Others may give the fewel, or the fire;
But they the breath, that makes the flame, inſpire.

ABD. This, and much more is true; but let not us
Add to our ills, and aggravate misfortunes
By paſſionate complaints, nor loſe ourſelves,
Becauſe we have loſt him; for if the tyrant
Were to a ſon ſo noble, ſo unnatural;
What will he be to us, who have appear'd
Friends to that ſon?

MOR. Well thought on, and in time;
Farewell unhappy prince, while we thy friends,
As ſtrangers to our country, and ourſelves,
Seek out our ſafety, and expect with patience
Heav'n's juſtice.

ABD. Let's rather act it, than expect it:
The Prince's injuries at our hands require
More than our tears, and patience:
His army is not yet diſbanded,
And only wants a head; thither we'll fly,

And all who love the Prince, or hate the tyrant,
Will follow us.

MOR. Nobly reſolv'd; and either we'll reſtore
The Prince, or periſh in the brave attempt.
Ye gods, ſince what we mean to execute,
Is your high office (to avenge the innocent)
Aſſiſt us with a fortune, equal to
The juſtice of our action; leſt the world
Should think itſelf deluded, and miſtruſt
That you want will, or power to be juſt. [*Ex.*

Enter HALY.

HA. 'Tis done, and 'twas my maſter-piece, to work
My ſafety 'twixt two dangerous extremes;
Now like a ſkilful ſailor have I paſt
Scylla and Charybdis, I have ſcap'd the rock
Of ſteep ambition, and the gulph of jealouſy,
A danger leſs avoided, 'cauſe leſs fear'd.

Enter MIRVAN.

MIR. What's done, my lord?

HA. Enough, I warrant you; impriſon'd, and deprived of ſight. [think

MIR. No more? this but provokes him: can you
Yourſelf ſecure, and he alive?

HA. The reſt o' th' buſineſs will do itſelf;
He can as well endure a priſon, as a wild bull the net:
There let him ſtruggle, and toil himſelf to death,
And ſave us ſo much envy.

MIR. But if his father ſhould relent, ſuch injuries
Can receive no excuſe or colour, but to be
Transferr'd upon his counſellors; and then

The forfeiture of them redeems his error.

HA. We muſt ſet a mark upon his paſſion,
And as we find it running low,
What ebbs from his, into our rage ſhall flow.
Why ſhould we be more wicked
Than we muſt needs?

MIR. Nay, if you ſtick at conſcience,
More gallant actions have been loſt, for want of being
Completely wicked, than have been perform'd
By being exactly virtuous. 'Tis hard to be
Exact in good, or excellent in ill;
Our will wants power, or elſe our power wants ſkill.

[*Ex.*

Enter SOLYMAN *and Tormentors.*

SOL. But gentlemen, was the king in earneſt?
I can ſcarce believe it.

Tor. You will when you feel it.

SOL. I pray, have any of you felt it, to tell me what it is?

Tor. No, ſir, but
Some of your fellow-courtiers can tell you,
That uſe ſomething like it, to mend their ſhapes.
'Twill make you ſo ſtraight and ſlender!

SOL. Slender! becauſe I was ſlender in my wits, muſt I be drawn
Slender in my waſte? I had rather grow wiſe,
And corpulent, like him they call Abdomen.

Tor. Come, ſir, 'tis but a little ſtretching.

SOL. No, no more's hanging; and ſure this will be the death of me:

I remember my grandmother died of convulſion fits.

Tor. Come, ſir, prepare, prepare.

Sol. Ay, for another world: I muſt repent firſt.

Tor. Quickly then.

Sol. Then firſt I repent that ſin of being a courtier.

And ſecondly, the greateſt ſin one can commit in that place, the ſpeaking of truth.

Tor. Have you no more ſins?

Sol. Some few trifles more, not worth the remembring;

Drinking, and whoring, and ſwearing, and ſuch like:

But for theſe let 'em paſs.

Tor. Have you done now?

Sol. Only ſome good counſel to the ſtanders-by.

Tor. We thank you for that, ſir.

Sol. Nay, gentlemen, miſtake me not;

'Tis not that I love you, but becauſe 'tis a thing of courſe,

For dying men.

Tor. Let's have it then.

Sol. Firſt then, if any of you are fools (as I think that but a needleſs queſtion) be fools ſtill, and labour ſtill in that vocation, then the worſt will be but whipping; where but for ſeeming wiſe, the beſt is racking. But if you have the luck to be court-fools, thoſe that have either wit or honeſty, you may fool withal, and ſpare not: but for thoſe that want either, you'll find it rather dangerous than otherwiſe; I could give you a modern inſtance or two, but let that paſs: but if you happen to be ſtate-fools, then 'tis but fooling on the

right side, and all's well; then you shall at least be wise men's fellows, if not wise men's masters. But of all things take heed of giving any man good counsel, you see what I have got by it; and yet like a fool, must I be doing on't again.

Tor. Is this all?

Sol. All, but a little in my own behalf. Remember, gentlemen, I am at full growth, and my joints are knit; and yet my sinews are not cables.

Tor. Well, we'll remember't.

Sol. But stay, gentlemen, what think you of a bottle now?

Tor. I hope you are more serious.

Sol. If you knew but how dry a thing this sorrow is, especially meeting with my constitution; which is as thirsty as any serving-man's.

Tor. Let him have it, it may be 'twill make him confess.

Sol. Yes I shall, I shall lay before you all that's within me, and with most fluent utterance. Here's to you all gentlemen, and let him that's good-natur'd in his drink, pledge me. [*Drinks.*

So, methinks I feel it in my joints already,
It makes 'em supple. [*Drinks again.*
Now I feel it in my brains, it makes 'em swim.

Tor. Hold, sir, you have no measure of yourself.

Sol. What do you talk of measure? You'll take measure of me with a vengeance.

Tor. You are witty, sir.

Sol. Nothing but a poor clinch; I have a thou-

ſand of them (a trick I learnt among the ſtates-men.)

[*Drinks again.*

Well rack, I defy thee, do thy worſt; I would thou wert man, giant, or monſter. Gentlemen, now if I happen to fall aſleep upon this engine, pray wake me not too ſuddenly; you ſee here's good ſtore of wine, and if it be over-rack'd, 'twill come up with lees and all, there I was with you again, and now I am for you.

[*Exeunt.*

Enter PRINCE, *being blind, ſolus.*

PRINCE. Nature,
How didſt thou mock mankind, to make him free,
And yet to make him fear; or when he loſt
That freedom, why did he not loſe his fear?
That fear of fears, the fear of what we know not,
While yet we know it is in vain to fear it:
Death, and what follows death, 'twas that that ſtamp'd
A terror on the brow of kings; that gave
Fortune her deity, and Jove his thunder.
Baniſh but fear of death, thoſe giant names
Of Majeſty, Power, Empire, finding nothing
To be their object, will be nothing too:
Then he dares yet be free, that dares to die,
May laugh at the grim face of law, and ſcorn
The cruel wrinkle of a tyrant brow:
But yet to die ſo tamely,
O'ercome by paſſion and misfortune,
And ſtill unconquer'd by my foes, ſounds ill;
Below the temper of my ſpirit:
Yet to embrace a life ſo poor, ſo wretched,

So full of deaths, argues a greater dulneſs;
But I am dead already, nor can ſuffer
More in the other world. For what is hell,
But a long ſleepleſs night? and what's their torment,
But to compare paſt joys with preſent ſorrows?
And what can death deprive me of? the ſight
Of day, of children, friends, and hope of empire;
And whatſoever others loſe in death,
In life I am depriv'd of; then will I live
Only to die reveng'd: nor will I go
Down to the ſhades alone.
Prompt me ſome witty, ſome revengeful devil,
His devil that could make a bloody feaſt
Of his own ſon, and call the gods his gueſts;
Her's that could kill her aged ſire, and caſt
Her brother's ſcatter'd limbs to wolves and vultures;
Or his that ſlew his father, to enjoy
His mother's bed; and greater than all thoſe,
My father's devil.
Come miſchief, I embrace thee; fill my ſoul:
And thou revenge aſcend, and bear the ſceptre
O'er all my paſſions, baniſh thence
All that are cool and tame.
Know, old tyrant,
My heart's too big to break, I know thy fears
Exceed my ſufferings; and my revenge,
Though but in hope, is much a greater pleaſure
Than thou canſt take in puniſhing. Then my anger,
Sink to the center of my heart, and there
Ly cloſe in ambuſh, till my ſeeming patience

Hath made the cruel tyrant as ſecure,
Though with as little cauſe, as now he's jealous.
Who's there?

Enter two or three.

I find my nature would return
To her old courſe, I feel an inclination
To ſome repoſe; welcome thou pleaſing ſlumber:
A while embrace me in thy leaden arms,
And charm my careful thoughts:
Conduct me to my bed. [*Exit.*

Enter KING, HALY, *and* CALIPH.

KING. How does the prince? how bears he his reſtraint?

HA. Why, Sir, as all great ſpirits
Bear great and ſudden changes, with ſuch impatience
As a Numidian lion, when firſt caught,
Endures the toil that holds him.
He would think of nothing
But preſent death, and ſought all violent means
To compaſs it. But time hath mitigated
Thoſe furious heats, he now returns to food
And ſleep, admits the converſation
Of thoſe that are about him.

KING. I would I had not
So eaſily believ'd my fears, I was too ſudden;
I would it were undone.

CAL. If you lament it,
That which now looks like juſtice, will be thought
An inconſiderate raſhneſs.

KING. But there are in nature

Such ſtrong returns! that I puniſht him,
I do not grieve; but that he was my ſon.

HA. But it concerns you to bear up your paſſion,
And make it good; for if the people know
That you have cauſe to grieve for what is done,
They'll think you had no cauſe at firſt to do it.

KING *to the* Cal. Go viſit him from me, and teach him patience;
Since neither all his fury, nor my ſorrow,
Can help what's paſt, tell him my ſeverity
To him ſhall in ſome meaſure be requited,
By my indulgence to his children. And if he deſire it, let them have acceſs to him: endeavour to take off his thoughts from revenge, by telling him of paradiſe, and I know not what pleaſures in the other world.

CAL. I ſhall, Sir.

[*Ex.* King *and* Cal.

Manet HALY. *Enter* MIRVAN.

HA. Mirvan, the king relents, and now there's left
No refuge but the laſt; he muſt be poiſon'd:
And ſuddenly, leſt he ſurvive his father.

MIR. But handſomely, leſt it appear.

HA. Appear!
To whom? you know there's none about him
But ſuch as I have plac'd; and they ſhall ſay
'Twas diſcontent, or abſtinence.

MIR. But at the beſt
'Twill be ſuſpected.

HA. Why though't be known,
We'll ſay he poiſoned himſelf.

MIR. But the curious will pry further
Than bare report, and the old king's ſuſpicions
Have piercing eyes.

HA. But thoſe nature will ſhortly cloſe: you ſee his old diſeaſe grows ſtrong upon him.

MIR. But if he ſhould recover?

HA. But I have caſt his nativity; he cannot, he muſt not. I'th' mean time I have ſo beſieged him, ſo blockt up all the paſſages, and plac'd ſo many centinels and guards upon him, that no intelligence can be convey'd but by my inſtruments. But this buſineſs will require more heads and hands than ours: go you to the priſon, and bring the keeper privately to me to give him his inſtructions. [*Ex. ſeveral ways.*

Enter PRINCE *and* CALIPH.

CAL. Sir, I am commanded by the king to viſit you.

PRINCE. What, to give a period to my life,
And to his fears? You're welcome; here's a throat, a heart, or any other part, ready to let in death, and receive his commands.

CAL. My lord, I am no meſſenger, nor miniſter of death,
'Tis not my function.

PRINCE. I ſhould know that voice.

CAL. I am the Caliph, and am come to tell you, your father is now returned to himſelf; nature has got the victory o'er paſſion, all his rigour is turned to grief and pity.

PRINCE. Alas good man!
I pity him, and his infirmities;

His doubts, and fears, and accidents of age,
Which firſt provok'd his cruelty.

CAL. He bid me tell you,
His love to yours would amply recompence
His cruelty to you: and I dare ſay 'tis real;
For all his thoughts, his pleaſures, and delights,
Are fixt on Fatyma: when he is ſad,
She comforts him; when ſick, ſhe's his phyſician.
And were it not for the delight he takes
In her, I think h'd die with ſorrow.

PRINCE. But how, are his affections fixt ſo ſtrangely
On her alone? ſure 'tis not in his nature;
For then he had lov'd me, or hated her,
Becauſe ſhe came from me.

CAL. 'Tis her deſert,
She's fair beyond compariſon, and witty
Above her age; and bears a manly ſpirit
Above her ſex.

PRINCE. But may I not admire her?
Is that too great a happineſs? pray let her make it
Her next ſuit to be permitted to viſit me herſelf.

CAL. She ſhall, Sir: I joy to ſee your mind
So well compos'd; I fear'd I ſhould have found
A tempeſt in your ſoul, and came to lay it.
I'll to the king;
I know to him that news will be
Moſt acceptable.

PRINCE. Pray do, and tell him
I have caſt off all my paſſions, and am now
A man again; fit for ſociety

And converſation.

CAL. I will, Sir. [*Ex.*

PRINCE. I never knew myſelf till now; how on the ſudden
I'm grown an excellent diſſembler, to out-do
One at the firſt, that has practis'd it all his life:
So now I am myſelf again, what is't
I feel within? methinks ſome vaſt deſign
Now takes poſſeſſion of my heart, and ſwells
My labouring thoughts above the common bounds
Of human actions, ſomething full of horror
My ſoul hath now decreed, my heart does beat,
As if 'twere forging thunder-bolts for Jove,
To ſtrike the tyrant dead: ſo, now I have it,
I have it, 'tis a gallant miſchief,
Worthy my father, or my father's ſon.
All his delight's in Fatyma, poor innocent!
But not more innocent than I, and yet
My father loves thee, and that's crime enough.
By this act, old tyrant,
I ſhall be quit with thee: while I was virtuous,
I was a ſtranger to thy blood, but now
Sure thou wilt love me for this horrid crime,
It is ſo like thy own. In this I'm ſure,
Although in nothing elſe, I am thy ſon:
But when 'tis done, I leave him yet that remedy
I take myſelf, revenge; but I as well
Will rob him of his anger, as his joy,
And having ſent her to the ſhades,
I'll follow her.

But to return again, and dwell
In his dire thoughts, for there's the blacker hell.

Enter Meſſenger.

Meſſ. Sir, your wife the princeſs is come to viſit you.

PRINCE. Conduct her in. Now to my diſguiſe again.

Enter PRINCESS.

PRINCESS. Is this my lord the prince?

PRINCE. That's Erythaea;
Or ſome angel, voic'd like her. 'Tis ſhe, my ſtruggling ſoul
Would fain go out to meet and welcome her. Erythaea!
No anſwer but in ſighs (dear Erythaea!)
Thou cam'ſt to comfort, to ſupport my ſuff'rings,
Not to oppreſs me with a greater weight,
To ſee that my unhappineſs
Involves thee too.

PRINCESS. My lord, in all your triumphs and your glories,
You call'd me into all your joys, and gave me
An equal ſhare, and in this depth of miſery
Can I be unconcern'd? you needs muſt know,
You needs muſt hope I cannot; or which is worſe,
You muſt ſuſpect my love: for what is love
But ſympathy? and this I make my happineſs,
Since both cannot be happy,
That we can both be miſerable.

PRINCE. I pr'ythee do not ſay thou lov'ſt me;
For love, or finds out equals, or makes 'em ſo:

But I am ſo caſt down, and fallen ſo low,
I can not riſe to thee, and dare not wiſh
Thou ſhould'ſt deſcend to me; but call it pity,
And I will own it then; that kings may give
To beggars, and not leſſen their own greatneſs. [above

PRINCESS. Till now I thought virtue had ſtood
The reach of fortune: but if virtue be not,
Yet love's a greater deity: whatever fortune
Can give or take, love wants not, or deſpiſes;
Or by his own omnipotence ſupplies:
Then like a god with joy beholds
The beauty of his own creations.
Thus what we form and image to our fancies,
We really poſſeſs.

PRINCE. But can thy imagination
Delude itſelf, to fix upon an object
So loſt in miſeries, ſo old in ſorrows?
Paleneſs and death hang on my cheek, and darkneſs
Dwells in my eyes; more chang'd from what I was
In perſon than in fortune.

PRINCESS. Yet ſtill the ſame to me:
Alas my lord, theſe outward beauties are but the props
and ſcaffolds
On which we built our love, which now made perfect,
Stands without thoſe ſupports: nor is my flame
So earthy as to need the dull material fuel
Of eyes, or lips, or cheeks, ſtill to be kindled,
And blown by appetite, or elſe t' expire:
My fires are purer, and like thoſe of heav'n,
Fed only, and contented with themſelves,

Need nothing from without.

PRINCE. But the diſgrace that waits upon miſ-
fortune,
The meer reproach, the ſhame of being miſerable,
Expoſes men to ſcorn and baſe contempt,
Even from their neareſt friends.

PRINCESS. Love is ſo far from ſcorning miſery,
That he delights in't, and is ſo kindly cruel,
Sometimes to wiſh it, that he may be alone
Inſtead of all, of fortunes, honour, friends, which are
But meer diverſions from love's proper object,
Which only is itſelf.

PRINCE. Thou haſt almoſt
Taught me to love my miſeries, and forgive
All my misfortunes. I'll at leaſt forget 'em;
We will revive thoſe times, and in our memories
Preſerve, and ſtill keep freſh (like flowers in water)
Thoſe happier days; when at our eyes our ſouls
Kindled their mutual fires, their equal beams
Shot and returned, till linkt, and twin'd in one,
They chain'd our hearts together. [begin

PRINCESS. And was it juſt, that fortune ſhould
Her tyranny, where we began our loves?
No, if it had, why was not I blinded too?
I'm ſure if weeping could have don't, I had been.

PRINCE. Think not that I am blind, but think it
night,
A ſeaſon for our loves, and which to lovers
Ne'er ſeems too long; and think of all our miſeries
But as ſome melancholy dream, which has awak'd us

To the renewing of our joys.

PRINCESS. My lord, this is a temper
Worthy the old philoſophers.

PRINCE. I but repeat that leſſon
Which I have learnt from thee. All this morality
Thy love hath taught me.

PRINCESS. My lord, you wrong your virtue,
T'aſcribe the effect of that to any cauſe
Leſs noble than itſelf.

PRINCE. And you your love,
To think it leſs noble, and leſs powerful,
Than any the beſt virtue: and I fear thy love
Will wrong itſelf: ſo long a ſtay will make
The jealous king ſuſpect we have been plotting:
How do the pledges of our former love,
Our children?

PRINCESS. Both happy in their grandſire's love, eſpecially
The pretty Fatyma; yet ſhe,
According to her apprehenſion, feels
A ſenſe of your misfortunes.

PRINCE. But let her not too much expreſs it,
Leſt ſhe provoke his fury.

PRINCESS. She only can allay it
When 'tis provok'd; ſhe
Plays with his rage, and gets above his anger;
As you have ſeen a little boat to mount and dance
Upon the wave, that threatens to overwhelm it.

PRINCE. To threaten is to ſave, but his anger
Strikes us like thunder, where the blow out-flies

The loud report, and even prevents mens fears.

PRINCESS. But then like thunder
It rends a cedar, or an oak, or finds
Some ſtrong reſiſting matter; women and children
Are not ſubjects worthy a Prince's anger.

PRINCE. Whatſoever
Is worthy of their love, is worth their anger.

PRINCESS. Love's a more natural motion; they are angry
As princes, but love as men.

PRINCE. Once more I beg,
Make not thy love thy danger.

PRINCESS. My lord, I ſee with what unwillingneſs
You lay upon me this command, and through your fears
Diſcern your love, and therefore muſt obey you.
[*Exit.*

PRINCE. Farewell my deareſt Erythaea.
There's a ſtrange muſic in her voice. The ſtory
Of Orpheus, which appears ſo bold a fiction,
Was propheſy'd of thee; thy voice has tam'd
The tigers, and the lions of my ſoul.

Enter Meſſenger.

Meſſ. Sir, your daughter Fatyma.

PRINCE. Conduct her in; how ſtrangely am I tempted
With opportunity, which like a ſudden guſt
Hath ſwell'd my calmer thoughts into a tempeſt?
Accurſed opportunity!
The midwife and the bawd to all our vices,

†

That work'ſt our thoughts into deſires, deſires
To reſolutions; thoſe being ripe, and quickned,
Thou giv'ſt 'em birth, and bring'ſt 'em forth to action.

Enter FATYMA *and* Meſſenger.

PRINCE. Leave us. O opportunity!
That when my dire and bloody reſolutions,
Like ſick and froward children,
Were rockt aſleep by reaſon or religion,
Thou like a violent noiſe cam'ſt ruſhing in,
And mak'ſt 'em wake and ſtart to new unquietneſs.
Come hither, pretty Fatyma,
Thy grandfire's darling, ſit upon my knee:
He loves thee dearly.

FAT. Ay father, for your ſake.

PRINCE. And for his ſake I ſhall requite it.
O virtue, virtue,
Where art thou fled? Thou art my reaſon's friend;
But that, like a depoſed prince, has yielded
His ſceptre to his baſe uſurping vaſſals;
And like a traitor to himſelf, takes pleaſure
In ſerving them.

FAT. But father,
I deſir'd him that you might have liberty, and that
He would give you your eyes again.

PRINCE. Pretty innocence!
'Tis not i' th' art, nor pow'r of man to do it.

FAT. Muſt you never ſee again then, father?

PRINCE. No, not without a miracle.

FAT. Why father, I can ſee with one eye, pray take one of mine.

PRINCE. I would her innocent prate could overcome me,
O what a conflict do I feel! How am I
Toſt like a ſhip 'twixt two encount'ring tides!
Love that was baniſht hence, would fain return
And force an entrance, but revenge
(That's now the porter of my ſoul) is deaf,
Deaf as the adder, and as full of poiſon.
Mighty revenge! that ſingle can'ſt o'erthrow
All thoſe joint powers, which nature, virtue, honour
Can raiſe againſt thee.

FAT. What do you ſeek for, your handkerchief? pray uſe mine,
To drink the bloody moiſture from your eyes;
I'll ſhew't my grandfather,
I know 'twill make him weep.
Why do you ſhake, father?
Juſt ſo my grandſire trembled at the inſtant
Your ſight was taken away.

PRINCE. And upon the like occaſion.

FAT. O father, what means the naked knife?

PRINCE. 'Tis to requite thy grandſire's love.
Prepare to meet thy death.

FAT. O, 'tis I, 'tis I,
Your daughter Fatyma!

PRINCE. I therefore do it.

FAT. Alas, was this the bleſſing my mother ſent me to receive?

PRINCE. Thy mother! Erythaea! There's ſomething in that,

That ſhakes my reſolution.
Poor Erythaea, how wretched ſhall I make thee,
To rob thee of a huſband and a child?
But which is worſe, that firſt I fool'd and won thee
To a belief that all was well; and yet
Shall I forbear a crime for love of thee,
And not for love of virtue? but what's virtue?
A mere imaginary ſound, a thing
Of ſpeculation; which to my dark ſoul,
Depriv'd of reaſon, is as indiſcernible
As colours to my body, wanting ſight.
Then being left to ſenſe, I muſt be guided
By ſomething that my ſenſe graſps and takes hold of;
On then my love, and fear not to encounter
That giant, my revenge. Alas, poor Fatyma!
My father loves thee, ſo does Erythaea:
Whether ſhall I by juſtly plaguing
Him whom I hate, be more unjuſtly cruel
To her I love? or being kind to her,
Be cruel to myſelf, and leave unſatisfied
My anger and revenge? But love, thou art
The nobler paſſion, and to thee I ſacrifice
All my ungentle thoughts. Fatyma, forgive me,
And ſeal it with a kiſs: what is't I feel?
The ſpirit of revenge, reinforcing
New arguments. Fly Fatyma,
Fly while thou may'ſt, nor tempt me to new miſchief,
By giving means to act it; to this ill
My will leads not my pow'r, but pow'r my will.
[*Ex.* Fat.

O what a tempeſt have I ſcap'd! thanks to heav'n,
And Erythaea's love!
No: 'twas a poor, a low revenge, unworthy
My virtues, or my injuries; and
As now my fame, ſo then my infamy,
Would blot out his; and I, inſtead of his empire,
Shall only be the heir of all his curſes.
No: I'll be ſtill myſelf, and carry with me
My innocence to th' other world, and leave
My fame to this: 'twill be a brave revenge,
To raiſe my mind to a conſtancy, ſo high,
That may look down upon his threats, my patience
Shall mock his fury; nor ſhall he be ſo happy
To make me miſerable; and my ſufferings ſhall
Erect a prouder trophy to my name,
Than all my proſp'rous actions: every pilot
Can ſteer the ſhip in calms, but he performs
The ſkilful part, can manage it in ſtorms.

ACT V. SCENE I.

Enter PRINCE.

PRINCE.

IF happineſs be a ſubſtantial good,
Not fram'd of accidents, nor ſubject to 'em,
I err'd to ſeek it in a blind revenge,
Or think it loſs of ſight, or empire;
'Tis ſomething ſure within us, not ſubjected

To ſenſe of ſight, only to be diſcern'd
By reaſon, my ſoul's eye, and that ſtill ſees
Clearly, and clearer for the want of theſe;
For gazing through theſe windows of the body,
It met ſuch ſeveral, ſuch diſtracting objects;
But now confin'd within itſelf, it ſees
A ſtrange, and unknown world, and there diſcovers
Torrents of anger, mountains of ambition,
Gulfs of deſire, and towers of hope, huge giants,
Monſters, and ſavage beaſts; to vanquiſh theſe,
Will be a braver conqueſt than the old
Or the new world.
O happineſs of blindneſs! now no beauty
Inflames my luſt; no others good, my envy;
Or miſery, my pity; no man's wealth
Draws my reſpect, nor poverty my ſcorn;
Yet ſtill I ſee enough. Man to himſelf
Is a large proſpect, rais'd above the level
Of his low creeping thoughts; if then I have
A world within myſelf, that world ſhall be
My empire; there I'll reign, commanding freely,
And willingly obey'd, ſecure from fear
Of foreign forces, or domeſtic treaſons,
And hold a monarchy more free, more abſolute
Than in my father's ſeat; and looking down
With ſcorn or pity, on the ſlippery ſtate
Of kings, will tread upon the neck of fate.. [*Ex.*

Enter Baſhaws *diſguis'd with* HALY.

1 Baſh. Sir, 'tis of near concernment, and imports
No leſs than the king's life and honour.

HA. May not I know it?

Bash. You may, Sir. But in his presence we are sworn
T' impart it first to him.

HA. Our Persian state descends not
To interviews with strangers: but from whence
Comes this discovery, or you that bring it?

2 Bash. We are, Sir, of Natolia.

HA. Natolia! heard you nothing
Of two villains that lately fled from hence?

1 Bash. The bashaws, Sir?

HA. The same.

2 Bash. They are nearer than you think for.

HA. Where?

1 Bash. In Persia.

HA. In arms again to 'tempt another slavery?

2 Bash. No, Sir, they made some weak attempts, presuming on
The reputation of their former greatness:
But having lost their fame and fortunes,
'Tis no wonder they lost their friends; now hopeless and forlorn
They are return'd, and somewhere live obscurely,
To expect a change in Persia; nor will't be hard
To find 'em.

HA. Do't, and name your own rewards.

2 Bash. We dare do nothing till we have seen the king,
And then you shall command us.

HA. Well, though 'tis not usual,

Ye ſhall have free acceſs.

[*Exit* Haly.

Enter KING *and* HALY.

1 Baſh. Sir, there were two Turkiſh priſoners lately fled
From hence for a ſuppos'd conſpiracy,
Between the prince and them.

KING. Where are the villains?

2 Baſh. This is the villain, Sir;

[*They pull off their diſguiſes.*

And we the wrongfully accus'd:
You gave life, Sir,
And we took it
As a free noble gift; but when we heard
'Twas valued at the price of your ſon's honour,
We came to give it back, as a poor trifle,
Priz'd at a rate too high.

KING. Haly,
I cannot think my favours plac'd ſo ill,
To be ſo ill requited; yet their confidence
Has ſomething in't that looks like innocence.

HA. *Aſide.* Is't come to that? then to my laſt and ſureſt refuge.

KING. Sure if the guilt were theirs, they could not charge thee
With ſuch a gallant boldneſs: if 'twere thine,
Thou could'ſt not bear't with ſuch a ſilent ſcorn;
I am amaz'd.

HA. Sir, perplex your thoughts no farther,
They have truth to make 'em bold;

And I have power to ſcorn it: 'twas I, Sir,
That betray'd him, and you, and them.

KING. Is this impudence, or madneſs?

HA. Neither:
A very ſober, and ſad truth——to you, Sir.

KING. A guard there.

Enter MIRVAN, *and others.*

KING. Seize him.

HA. Seize them: now
Though 'tis too late to learn, yet know
'Gainſt you are king again, what 'tis to let your ſubjects
Diſpoſe all offices of truſt and power:
The beaſt obeys his keeper, and looks up,
Not to his maſter's, but his feeder's hand;
And when you gave me power to diſpenſe
And make your favours mine, in the ſame hour
You made yourſelf my ſhadow: and 'twas my courteſy
To let you live, and reign ſo long.

KING. Without there!

Enter two or three, and join with the others.

What, none but traitors? has this villain
Breath'd treaſon into all, and with that breath,
Like a contagious vapour, blaſted loyalty?
Sure hell itſelf hath ſent forth all her furies,
T' inhabit and poſſeſs this place.

HA. Sir, paſſions without power,
Like ſeas againſt a rock, but loſe their fury.
Mirvan, take theſe villains, and ſee 'em ſtrangled.

1 Baſh. Farewell, Sir, commend us to your ſon, let him know,

That ſince we cannot die his ſervants,
We'll die his martyrs.

KING. Farewell, unhappy friends,
A long farewell; and may you find rewards
Great as your innocence; or, which is more,
Great as your wrongs.

2 Baſh. Come, thou art troubled,
Thou doſt not fear to die?

1 Baſh. No, but to loſe my death,
To ſell my life ſo cheap, while this proud villain
That takes it muſt ſurvive.

2 Baſh. We ſhall not loſe our deaths,
If heav'n can hear the cries of guiltleſs blood,
Which it ſure muſt; for I have heard th'are loud ones;
Vengeance ſhall overtake thee.

HA. Away with 'em.

KING. Stay, Haly, they are innocent; yet life, when 'tis thy gift,
Is worſe than death, I diſdain to aſk it.

1 Baſh. And we to take it.

HA. Do not aſk it, Sir,
For them, to whom you owe your ruin, they have undone you;
Had not they told you this, you had liv'd ſecure,
And happy in your ignorance; but this injury,
Since 'tis not in your nature to forgive it,
I muſt not leave it in your power to puniſh it.

KING. Heav'n, though from thee I have deſerv'd this plague,
Be thou my judge, and witneſs, from this villain

'Tis undeſerv'd.
Had I but felt your vengeance from ſome hand
That firſt had ſuffer'd mine, it had been juſtice:
But have you ſent this ſad return of all
My love, my truſt, my favours?

HA. Sir, there's a great reſemblance
Between your favours, and my injuries;
Thoſe are too great to be requited, theſe
Too great to be forgiven: and therefore
'Tis but in vain to mention either.

KING. Mirza, Mirza,
How art thou loſt by my deceiv'd credulity?
I'll beg thy pardon.

HA. Stay, Sir, not without my leave:
Go ſome of you, and let the people know
The king keeps ſtate, and will not come in public:
If any great affairs, or ſtate addreſſes,
Bring 'em to me.

KING. How have I taught the villain
To act my part? But oh, my ſon, my ſon,
Shall I not ſee thee?

HA. For once you ſhall, Sir,
But you muſt grant me one thing.

KING. Traitor, doſt thou mock my miſeries?
What can I give but this unhappy life?

HA. Alas! Sir, it is but that I aſk, and 'tis my modeſty
To aſk it, it being in my power to take it:
When you ſhall ſee him, Sir, to die for pity,
'Twere ſuch a thing, 'twould ſo deceive the world,

And make the people think you were good-natur'd;
'Twill look ſo well in ſtory, and become
The ſtage ſo handſomely. [now

KING. I ne'er deny'd thee any thing, and ſhall not
Deny thee this. Though I could ſtand upright
Under the tyranny of age and fortune,
Yet the ſad weight of ſuch ingratitude,
Will cruſh me into earth.

HA. Loſe not your tears, but keep
Your lamentations for your ſon, or ſins;
For both deſerve 'em: but you muſt make haſte, Sir,
[*He looks upon a watch.*
Or he'll not ſtay your coming.
'Tis now about the hour the poiſon
Muſt take effect.

KING. Poiſon'd? Oh heav'n!

HA. Nay, Sir, loſe no time in wonder, both of us
Have much to do; if you will ſee your ſon,
Here's one ſhall bring you to him. [*Ex.* King.
Some unſkilful pilot had ſhipwreck'd here;
But I not only againſt ſure
And likely ills have made myſelf ſecure;
But ſo confirm'd, and fortify'd my ſtate,
To ſet it ſafe above the reach of fate. [*Ex.* Haly.

Enter PRINCE *led by a ſervant, at the other door.*

PRINCESS *and* SOPHY.

Serv. Sir, the princeſs and your ſon.

PRINCE. Sophy, thou com'ſt to wonder at
Thy wretched father: why doſt thou interrupt
Thy happineſs, by looking on an object

So miſerable? [your voice

PRINCESS. My lord, methinks there is not in
The vigour that was wont, nor in your look
The wonted chearfulneſs. Are you well, my lord?

PRINCE. No: but I ſhall be. I feel my health a coming.

PRINCESS. What's your diſeaſe, my lord?

PRINCE. Nothing, but I have ta'en a cordial,
Sent by the King or Haly, in requital
Of all my miſeries, to make me happy:
The pillars of this frame grow weak,
As if the weight of many years oppreſs'd 'em;
My ſinews ſlacken, and an icy ſtiffneſs
Benumbs my blood.

PRINCESS. Alas, I fear he's poiſon'd:
Call all the help that art, or herbs, or minerals
Can miniſter.

PRINCE. No, 'tis too late:
And they that gave me this, are too well practis'd
In ſuch an art, to attempt and not perform.

PRINCESS. Yet try, my lord, revive your thoughts, the empire
Expects you, your father's dying.

PRINCE. So when the ſhip is ſinking,
The winds that wrackt it ceaſe.

PRINCESS. Will you be the ſcorn of fortune,
To come near a crown, and only near it?

PRINCE. I am not fortune's ſcorn, but ſhe is mine,
More blind than I.

PRINCESS. O tyranny of fate! to bring

Death in one hand, and empire in the other;
Only to ſhew us happineſs, and then
To ſnatch us from it.

PRINCE. They ſnatch me to it;
My ſoul is on her journey, do not now
Divert, or lead her back, to loſe herſelf
I'th' maze, and winding labyrinths o'th' world:
I pr'ythee do not weep, thy love is that
I part with moſt unwillingly, or otherwiſe
I had not ſtaid till rude neceſſity
Had forc'd me hence.
Sophy, be not a man too ſoon,
And when thou art, take heed of too much virtue;
It was thy father's, and his only crime,
'Twill make the King ſuſpicious; yet ere time
By nature's courſe hath ripen'd thee to man,
'Twill mellow him to duſt; 'till then forget
I was thy father, yet forget it not,
My great example ſhall excite thy thoughts
To noble actions. And you dear Erythaea,
Give not your paſſions vent; nor let blind fury
Precipitate your thoughts, nor ſet 'em working,
Till time ſhall lend 'em better means and inſtruments
Than loſt complaints. Where's pretty Fatyma?
She muſt forgive my raſh ungentle paſſion.

PRINCESS. What do you mean, ſir?

PRINCE. I am aſham'd to tell you.
I pr'ythee call her.

PRINCESS. I will. Sir, I pray try if ſleep will eaſe
Your torments, and repair your waſted ſpirits.

PRINCE. Sleep to thoſe empty lids
Is grown a ſtranger, and the day and night
As undiſtinguiſh'd by my ſleep, as ſight.
O happineſs of poverty! that reſts
Securely on a bed of living turf,
While we with waking cares, and reſtleſs thoughts,
Ly tumbling on our down, courting the bleſſing
Of a ſhort minute's ſlumber, which the plowman
Shakes from him, as a ranſom'd ſlave his fetters.
Call in ſome muſic, I have heard ſoft airs
Can charm our ſenſes, and expel our cares.
Is Erythaea gone?

Serv. Yes ſir.

PRINCE. 'Tis well:
I would not have her preſent at my death.

Enter Muſic.

MORPHEUS, the humble god, that dwells
In cottages and ſmoaky cells,
Hates gilded roofs, and beds of down;
And though he fears no prince's frown,
Flies from the circle of a crown.

Come, I ſay, thou powerful god,
And thy leaden charming rod,
Dipt in the Lethaean lake,
Oe'r his wakeful temples ſhake,
Leſt he ſhould ſleep and never wake.

Nature (alas) why art thou ſo
Obliged to thy greateſt foe?
Sleep, that is thy beſt repaſt,
Yet of death it bears a taſte,
And both are the ſame thing at laſt.

Serv. So now he ſleeps, let's leave him
To his repoſe.

Enter KING.

KING. The horror of this place preſents
The horror of my crimes; I fain would aſk
What I am loth to hear, but I am well prepar'd:
They that are paſt all hope of good, are paſt
All fear of ill; and yet if he be dead,
Speak ſoftly or uncertainly.

PHY. Sir, he ſleeps. [his laſt,

KING. O that's too plain, I know thou mean'ſt
His long, his endleſs ſleep.

PHY. No, ſir, he lives: but yet
I fear the ſleep you ſpeak of will be his next:
For nature, like a weak and weary traveller,
Tir'd with a tedious and rugged way,
Not by deſire provok'd, but ev'n betray'd
By wearineſs and want of ſpirits,
Gives up herſelf to this unwilling ſlumber.

KING. Thou haſt it, Haly, 'tis indeed a ſad
And ſober truth, though the firſt
And only truth thou ever told'ſt me:
And 'tis a fatal ſign, when kings hear truth,
Eſpecially when flatterers dare ſpeak it.

PRINCE. I thought I heard my father, does he think the poiſon
Too ſlow, and comes to ſee the operation?
[*Prince awakes.*
Or does he think his engine dull, or honeſt?
Leſs apt to execute, than he to bid him:
He needs not, 'tis enough, it will ſucceed
To his expectation.

KING. 'Tis indeed thy father,
Thy wretched father; but ſo far from acting
New cruelties, that if thoſe already paſt,
Acknowledg'd and repented of, can yet
Receive a pardon, by thoſe mutual bonds
Nature has ſeal'd between us, which though I
Have cancell'd, thou haſt ſtill preſerv'd inviolate,
I beg thy pardon.

PRINCE. Death in itſelf appears
Lovely and ſweet, not only to be pardoned,
But wiſht for, had it come from any other hand,
But from a father; a father,
A name ſo full of life, of love, of pity:
Death from a father's hand, from whom I firſt
Receiv'd a being! 'tis a prepoſterous gift,
An act at which inverted nature ſtarts,
And bluſhes to behold herſelf ſo cruel.

KING. Take thou that comfort with thee, and be not deaf to truth:
By all that's holy, by the dying accents
Of thine, and my laſt breath, I never meant,
I never wiſh'd it: ſorrow has ſo o'er-fraught

This ſinking barque, I ſhall not live to ſhew
How I abhor, or how I would repent
My firſt raſh crime; but he that now
Has poiſon'd thee, firſt poiſon'd me with jealouſy,
A fooliſh cauſeleſs jealouſy.

PRINCE. Since you believe my innocence,
I cannot but believe your ſorrow:
But does the villain live? A juſt revenge
Would more become the ſorrows of a king,
Than womaniſh complaints.

KING. O Mirza! Mirza!
I have no more the power to do it,
Than thou to ſee it done: my empire, Mirza,
My empire's loſt: thy virtue was the rock
On which it firmly ſtood; that being undermin'd,
It ſunk with its own weight; the villain whom my breath created,
Now braves it in my throne.

PRINCE. O for an hour of life! but 'twill not be:
Revenge and juſtice we muſt leave to heav'n.
I would ſay more, but death hath taken in the outworks,
And now aſſails the fort; I feel, I feel him
Gnawing my heart-ſtrings: farewell, and yet I would —
[*Dies.*

KING. O ſtay, ſtay but a while, and take me with thee;
Come death, let me embrace thee; thou that wert
The worſt of all my fears, art now the beſt
Of all my hopes. But fate, why haſt thou added

This curſe to all the reſt? the love of life;
We love it, and yet hate it; death we loath,
And ſtill deſire; fly to it, and yet fear it.

Enter PRINCESS *and* SOPHY.

PRINCESS. He's gone, he's gone for ever:
O that the poiſon had miſtaken his,
And met this hated life! but cruel fate
Envied ſo great a happineſs: fate that ſtill
Flies from the wretched, and purſues the bleſt.
Ye heav'ns! but why ſhould I complain to them
That hear me not, or bow to thoſe that hate me?
Why ſhould your curſes ſo outweigh your bleſſings?
They come but ſingle, and long expectation
Takes from their value: but theſe fall upon us
Double and ſudden. [*Sees the King.*
Yet more of horror? then farewel my tears,
And my juſt anger be no more confin'd
To vain complaints, or ſelf-devouring ſilence;
But break, break forth upon him like a deluge,
And the great ſpirit of my injur'd lord
Poſſeſs me, and inſpire me with a rage
Great as thy wrongs, and let me call together
All my ſoul's powers, to throw a curſe upon him
Black as his crimes.

KING. O ſpare your anger, 'tis loſt;
For he whom thou accuſeſt has already
Condemn'd himſelf, and is as miſerable
As thou canſt think, or wiſh him; ſpit upon me,
Caſt all reproaches on me, woman's wit
Or malice can invent, I'll thank thee for them;

What-e'er can give me a more lively ſenſe
Of my own crimes, that ſo I may repent 'em.

PRINCESS. O cruel tyrant! couldſt thou be ſo barbarous
To a ſon as noble as thyſelf art vile?
That knew no other crime but too much virtue;
Nor could deſerve ſo great a puniſhment
For any fault, but that he was thy ſon?
Now not content to exceed all other tyrants,
Exceed'ſt thyſelf: firſt robbing him of ſight,
Then ſeeming by a feign'd and forc'd repentance,
To expiate that crime, didſt win him to
A falſe ſecurity, and now by poiſon
Haſt robb'd him of his life.

KING. Were but my ſoul as pure
From other guilts as that, heav'n did not hold
One more immaculate. Yet what I have done,
He dying did forgive me, and hadſt thou been preſent,
Thou wouldſt have done the ſame: for thou art happy,
Compar'd to me; I am not only miſerable,
But wicked too; thy miſeries may find
Pity, and help from others; but mine make me
The ſcorn, and the reproach of all the world;
Thou, like unhappy merchants, whoſe adventures
Are daſh'd on rocks, or ſwallow'd up in ſtorms,
Ow'ſt all thy loſſes to the fates: but I,
Like waſteful prodigals, have caſt away
My happineſs, and with it all men's pity:
Thou ſeeſt how weak and wretched guilt can make
Even kings themſelves, when a weak woman's anger

Can maſter mine.

PRINCESS. And your ſorrow
As much o'ercomes my anger, and turns it into melting pity.

KING. Pity not me, nor yet deplore your huſband;
But ſeek the ſafety of your ſon, his innocence
Will be too weak a guard, when nor my greatneſs,
Nor yet his father's virtues could protect us.
Go on, my boy: the juſt revenge of all [*To Sophy.*
Our wrongs I recommend to thee and heav'n;
I feel my weakneſs growing ſtrong upon me:
[*Ex. Princeſs and Sophy.*
Death, thou art he that wilt not flatter princes,
That ſtoops not to authority, nor gives
A ſpecious name to tyranny; but ſhews
Our actions in their own deformed likeneſs.
Now all thoſe cruelties which I have acted,
To make me great, or glorious, or ſecure,
Look like the hated crimes of other men.

Enter Phyſician.

KING. O ſave me, ſave me! who are thoſe that ſtand,
And ſeem to threaten me?

PHY. There's no body, 'tis nothing
But ſome fearful dream.

KING. Yes, that's my brother's ghoſt, whoſe birthright ſtood
'Twixt me and empire, like a ſpreading cedar
That grows to hinder ſome delightful proſpect;
Him I cut down.
Next my old father's ghoſt, whom I, impatient

To have my hopes delay'd, haſtned by violence before
his fatal day;
Then my enraged ſon, who ſeems to beckon,
And hale me to him. I come, I come, ye ghoſts,
The greateſt of you all; but ſure one hell's
Too little to contain me, and too narrow
For all my crimes. [*Dies.*

Enter MIRVAN *and* HALY *at ſeveral doors.*

HA. Go muſter all the city-bands; pretend it
To prevent ſudden tumults,
But indeed to ſettle the ſucceſſion.

MIR. My lord, you are too ſudden, you'll take
'em unprepar'd.
Alas! you know their conſciences are tender,
Scandal and ſcruple muſt be firſt remov'd,
They muſt be pray'd and preach'd into a tumult:
But for ſucceſſion,
Let us agree on that; there's Calamah
The eldeſt ſon by the Arabian lady,
A gallant youth.

HA. Ay, too gallant; his proud ſpirit will diſdain
To owe his greatneſs to another's gift:
Such gifts as crowns, tranſcending all requital,
Turn injuries.
No, Mirvan; he muſt be dull and ſtupid, leſt he know
Wherefore we made him king.

MIR. But he muſt be good-natur'd, tractable,
And one that will be govern'd.

HA. And have ſo much wit to know whom he's
beholden to.

MIR. But why, my lord, ſhould you look further than yourſelf?

HA. I have had ſome ſuch thoughts; but I conſider
The Perſian ſtate will not endure a king
So meanly born; no, I'll rather be the ſame I am;
In place the ſecond, but the firſt in power:
Solyman the ſon of the Georgian lady
Shall be the man: What noiſe is that?

Enter Meſſenger.

MESS. My lord, the Prince's late victorious army
Is marching towards the palace, breathing nothing
But fury and revenge; to them are join'd
All whom deſire of change, or diſcontent,
Excites to new attempts, their leaders
Abdal and Morat.

HA. Abdal and Morat! Mirvan, we are loſt, fallen from the top
Of all our hopes, and caſt away like ſailors,
Who ſcaping ſeas and rocks, and tempeſts, periſh
I' th' very port: ſo are we loſt i' th' ſight
And reach of all our wiſhes.

MIR. How has our intelligence fail'd us ſo ſtrangely?

HA. No, no, I knew they were in mutiny;
But they could ne'er have hurt us,
Had they not come at this inſtant period,
This point of time: had he liv'd two days longer,
A pardon to the captain, and a largeſs
Among the ſoldiers, had appeas'd their fury:
Had he dy'd two days ſooner, the ſucceſſion
Had as we pleas'd been ſettled, and ſecur'd

By Sophy's death. Gods, that the world ſhould turn
On minutes and on moments!

MIR. My lord, loſe not yourſelf
In paſſion, but take counſel from neceſſity:
I'll to 'em, and will let them know
The Prince is dead, and that they come too late
To give him liberty for love to him
Has bred their diſcontents; I'll tell them boldly,
That they have loſt their hopes.

HA. And tell them too,
As they have loſt their hopes o'th' one, they have loſt
Their fears o' th' other: tell their leaders we deſire
Their counſel in the next ſucceſſion;
Which if it meet diſturbance,
Then we ſhall crave aſſiſtance from their power,
Which fate could not have ſent in a more happy hour.
[*Ex. Mirvan.*

Enter Lords, CALIPH.

CAL. My lord,
Ye hear the news, the Prince's army is at the gate.

HA. Ay, I hear it, and feel it here; [*Aſide.*
But the ſucceſſion, that's the point
That firſt requires your counſel.

CAL. Who ſhould ſucceed, but Sophy?

HA. What! in ſuch times as theſe, when ſuch an army
Lies at our gates, to chuſe a child our king?
You, my lord Caliph, are better read in ſtory,
And can diſcourſe the fatal conſequences
When children reign.

CAL. My lords, if you'll be guided
By reaſon and example——

Enter ABDAL *and* MORAT.

HA. My lords, you come moſt opportunely, we were entring
Into diſpute about the next ſucceſſion.

ABD. Who dares diſpute it? We have a pow'rful argument
Of forty thouſand ſtrong, that ſhall confute him.

CAL. A powerful argument indeed.

ABD. Ay, ſuch a one as will puzzle all your logic
And diſtinctions to anſwer it;
And ſince we came too late for the performance
Of our intended ſervice to the Prince,
The wronged Prince, we cannot more expreſs
Our loyalty to him, than in the right
Of his moſt hopeful ſon.

HA. But is he not too young?

MOR. Sure you think us ſo too; but he, and we
Are old enough to look through your diſguiſe,
And under that to ſee his father's enemies.
A guard there.

Enter Guard.

MOR. Seize him, and you that could ſhew reaſon or example

HA. Seize me! for what?

AB. Canſt thou remember ſuch a name as Mirza,
And aſk, for what?

HA. That name I muſt remember, and with horror;
But few have dy'd for doing,

What they had dy'd for if they had not done:
It was the king's command, and I was only
Th'unhappy miniſter.

AB. Ay, ſuch a miniſter as wind to fire,
That adds an accidental fierceneſs to
Its natural fury.

MOR. If 'twere the king's command, 'twas firſt thy malice
Commanded that command, and then obey'd it.

HA. Nay, if you have reſolv'd it, truth and reaſon
Are weak and idle arguments;
But let me pity the unhappy inſtruments
Of prince's wills, whoſe anger is our fate,
And yet their love's more fatal than their hate.

AB. And how well that love hath been requited,
Mirvan, your confident,
By torture has confeſt.

MOR. The ſtory of the king, and of the baſhaws.

HA. Mirvan! poor-ſpirited wretch! thou haſt deceiv'd me:
Nay then farewell my hopes, and next my fears.

Enter SOPHY.

SOP. What horrid noiſe was that of drums and Trumpets, that ſtruck my ear? [jealouſy
What mean theſe bonds? could not thy grandfire's
Be ſatisfied upon his ſon, but now
Muſt ſeize his deareſt favourite? ſure my turn comes next.

AB. 'Tis come already, Sir; but to ſucceed him, not them.

Long live king Sophy.

[*Without drums and trumpets.*

SOP. But why are these men prisoners?

AB. Let this inform you.

SOP. But is my grandsire dead?

AB. As sure as we are alive.

SOP. Then let them still be prisoners, away with 'em,
Invite our mother from her sad retirement,
And all that suffer, from my father's love,
Restraint or punishment.

Enter PRINCESS.

SOP. Dear mother, make
Our happiness compleat, by breaking through
That cloud of sorrow,
And let us not be wanting to ourselves,
Now th' heav'ns have done their part,
Lest so severe and obstinate a sadness
Tempt a new vengeance.

PRINCESS. Sir, to comply with you I'll use a violence
Upon my nature; joy is such a foreigner,
So meer a stranger to my thought, I know
Not how to entertain him; but sorrow
I've made by custom so habitual,
'Tis now part of my nature.

SOP. But can no pleasure, no delight divert it?
Greatness or power, which women most affect;
If that can do it, rule me, and rule my empire.

PRINCESS. Sir, seek not to rob me of my tears, fortune

Herſelf is not ſo cruel; for my counſels,
They may be unſucceſsful, but my pray'rs
Shall wait on all your actions.

Enter SOLYMAN, *as from the rack. Guard.*

SOP. Alas poor Solyman, how he is altered!

SOL. Why, becauſe I would not accuſe your father, when your grandfather ſaw he could not ſtretch my conſcience, thus he has ſtretch'd my carcaſe.

MOR. I think they have ſtretch'd his wit too.

SOL. This is your father's love that lies thus in my bones; I might have lov'd all the pocky whores in Perſia, and have felt it leſs in my bones.

SOP. Thy faith and honeſty ſhall be rewarded according to thine own deſire.

SOL. Friend, I pray thee tell me whereabout my knees are, I would fain kneel to thank his majeſty: why, Sir, for the preſent my deſire is only to have a good bone-ſetter, and when your majeſty has done that office to the body politic, and ſome ſkilful man to this body of mine, (which if it had been a body politic, had never come to this) I ſhall by that time think on ſomething for my ſuffering: but muſt none of theſe great ones be hang'd for their villanies?

MOR. Yes certainly.

SOL. Then I need look no further, ſome of their eſtates will ſerve my turn.

SOP. Bring back thoſe villains.

Enter HALY *and* CALIPH.

SOP. Now to your tears, dear madam, and the ghoſt
Of my dead father, will I conſecrate

The firſt-fruits of my juſtice: let ſuch honours
And funeral rites, as to his birth and virtues
Are due, be firſt performed; then all that were
Actors, or authors of ſo black a deed,
Be ſacrific'd as victims to his ghoſt:
Firſt thou, my holy devil, that couldſt varniſh
So foul an act with the fair name of piety:
Next thou, th' abuſer of thy prince's ear.

CAL. Sir, I beg your mercy.

HA. And I a ſpeedy death, nor ſhall my reſolution
Diſarm itſelf, nor condeſcend to parly
With fooliſh hope.

SOP. 'Twere cruelty to ſpare 'em. I am ſorry
I muſt commence my reign in blood, but duty
And juſtice to my father's ſoul, exact
This cruel piety; let's ſtudy for a puniſhment,
A feeling one,
And borrow from our ſorrow ſo much time,
T' invent a torment equal to their crime.

[*Exeunt.*

THE

EPILOGUE.

'TIS done, and we alive again, and now
There is no tragedy, but in your brow.
And yet our author hopes you're pleas'd: if not,
This having fail'd, he has a ſecond plot:
'Tis this; the next day ſends us in your friends,
Then laugh at them, and make yourſelves amends.
Thus, whether it be good or bad, yet you
May pleaſe yourſelves, and you may pleaſe us too:
But look you pleaſe the poet, leſt he vow
A full revenge upon you all; but how?
'Tis not to kill you all, twenty a day,
He'll do't at once a more compendious way;
He means to write again; but ſo much worſe,
That ſeeing that, you'll think it a juſt curſe
For cenſuring this: 'faith, give him your applauſe,
As you give beggars money; for no cauſe,
But that he's troubleſome, and he has ſwore,
As beggars do, he'll trouble you no more.

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